

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

December, 1968

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HOSPITAL INSPECTORS

Tory's policy pledge

'Spastics News' reporter



Shoot! And 12-year-old Thomas Ballard does just that. Thomas, a spastic and a deaf mute, plays left back for Scotland's newest team, Corseford United, from Corseford Residential School, recently opened. See Page 5.

(Photo by courtesy of "Scottish Daily Record").

IT WILL BE part of the policy of a Conservative Government to establish an Inspectorate of Hospitals, Lord Balniel, Tory spokesman on health and social security, told me after the Spastics Society's annual meeting. Such a safeguard was particularly needed in mental and geriatric institutions, he said, although the Conservatives envisaged an inspectorate for all hospitals.

Lord Balniel was commenting on a plea at the meeting by the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, who had said: "There are Inspectors of Schools, there are Inspectors of Factories, Inspectors in many other fields. Why then is there no national Inspectorate of Mental Hospitals?"

Lord Balniel said afterwards that an inspectorate would be an indication of public concern for those who were inarticulate; a valid means of passing information about standards from one hospital to another; and, if reports were published, it would mean that there would be continuous information and public discussion.

Miss Mary Appleby, General Secretary of the National Association for Mental Health, said that there should be an inspectorate as suggested by Mr. Burn, but that it needed to go wider than mental hospitals alone. "Wherever people are living in care and it is their life, there is a need for an inspectorate," she said.

When the Board of Control was abolished, the sort of situa-

tion we now had in long-stay wards was not there, but the run-down had been nullified by the tide of old people who had been washed into mental hospitals.

An inspectorate would both prevent abuse and fertilise the ground. "Standards are very uneven," said Miss Appleby, "and the effect upon this alone would make an inspectorate valuable."

Two courses

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security said their comment on Mr. Burn's suggestion was, in effect, contained in the Green Paper of the former Minister, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, in which he put forward his thoughts about the future of the Health Service.

In this he suggested that for dealing with complaints there might be two courses—bringing the activities of the Hospital Boards within the ambit of the "Ombudsman", or that there should be available a person, not appointed by the area board or Minister but possibly by the Privy Council, who could look into complaints and see whether any further action needed to be taken. He suggested the term "Health Commissioner".

The Department were now at the stage of receiving from all interested bodies their reactions to the thoughts expressed in the Green Paper, the spokesman said.

R.P.P. TRIGGERS OFF BIG 'BOOSTER'

CARS, BONDS, HOLIDAY PRIZES

— AND CHARITIES GET MORE

SWEEPING changes are to be made in "The Spastics" competition which, through the Spastic League Club and the Friends of Spastics League, provides the Society with more than half its annual income.

Bigger prizes — and more of them — are offered in the plan which is aimed at boosting membership higher than ever before.

Best part of the deal for the Society and the hundreds of other good causes that benefit from the competitions is the fact that members will be donating a higher proportion to those causes.

As far as the millions of members are concerned, the competitions are more attractive than ever. For the top "merit" winners each week there will be prizes of Ford Escort de Luxe saloon cars—and as many as 250 of these vehicles may be won during the first year. Alternative prizes are "Holidays of a Lifetime" for the whole family or £500 cash.

VAST NUMBER

The existing £2 10s. merit prizes are so popular that this part of the scheme is being retained and thousands of people will still receive these welcome cheques every week.

In another new scheme every member will, in turn, receive a Premium Bond. The frequency is based on membership, but initially between 2-3,000 will qualify each day. The qualifying numbers will be published daily in the National press.

Officials have described this part of the scheme as a "most imaginative idea," and it is certain that with the vast number of bonds issued, the competition's members must be among the big prizewinners.

The popular bonus gifts scheme is also to be retained, and re-organised slightly so that all members will receive a gift in every three-year cycle.



S.O.S. Vice-President Vera Lynn got a "warm reception" when she opened tombola prizes destined for the S.O.S. Ball at Grosvenor House on December 2nd. The picture was taken at Park Crescent during preparations for the event.

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And the little girl got up and walked away

ONE MOVING RESULT of Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District's Spastics Week has given them heart to try again next year.

The secretary, Mrs. E. Rimmer, told "Spastics News" that they had decided to carry out a series of propaganda efforts to let the people know about spastics and their needs.

"Four weeks later, a strong pram in good condition complete with a dressed doll was presented by girls of St. Wilfred's School, Litherland, to be used by children who attend an assessment clinic at Bootle Welfare Centre."

The real point of the story follows. Said Mrs. Rimmer: "The children were delighted . . . and one little girl who had never walked before without human aid tried out the pram. To the delight and amazement of her mother, she toddled off with no help but the pram handles."

Instant art a big hit

An art exhibition and sale in aid of the Friends of the Spastics at Ponds Home, was a great success, the chairman, Mr. J. R. Mance told "Spastics News."

"There were 161 paintings—32 of them by members of the family at Ponds," he said.

"There were about 300 visitors and the net profit was in the region of £100. An 'instant art' competition stall was particularly successful."

Society acquires Essex firm

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY has acquired the well-established family firm of Welslips of Harwich, and has transferred production to Drummonds, its new adult residential centre in Feering, Essex.

Welslips was founded some years ago by a husband-and-wife team, and has built up good home and overseas markets for a special type of moccasin to be worn inside Wellington boots.

These moccasins are made in

a choice of dyed or undyed leather or sheepskin in adults' and children's sizes, and the bulk of the business is through mail order.

"This is an important development in the type of work available to spastic adults who are too handicapped to find jobs outside," says Mr. Raymond Smith, Warden of Drummonds. "The demand is concentrated in the months between October and January, so we shall be able to work steadily throughout the

'Twikker' is sorry

The Sheffield rag magazine, "Twikker", criticised as being in bad taste in jokes about spastics and others, has made a public apology.

The editor, Mr. Paul Gooch, made the apology in a Radio Sheffield programme.

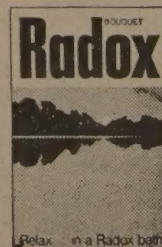
He said he would try to ensure that next year's magazine editor would examine carefully jokes which might be thought in bad taste.

Relax
in a
Radox
bath

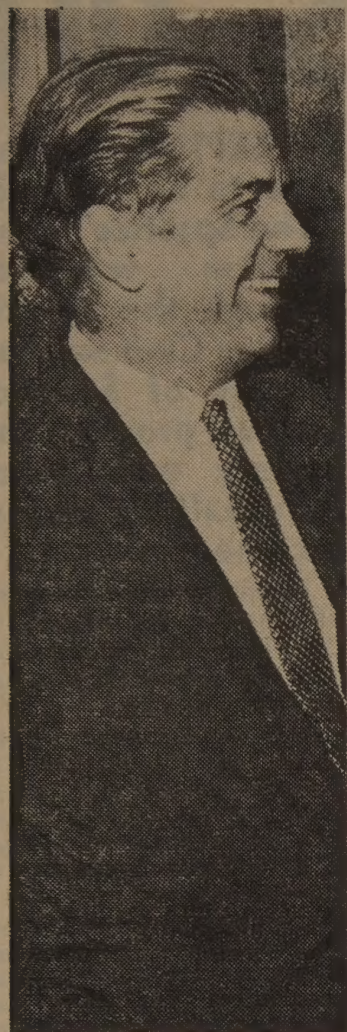
After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

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Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS PRODUCT. BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.



Mr. Burn.

Room to co-operate

IN HIS ADDRESS, the chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, put in a special plea for co-operation between various charities serving the needs of multiple-handicapped people.

"We in the Spastics Society know only too well," he said, "that the majority of spastics have multiple handicaps."

"There is a considerable proportion of those who are mentally sub-normal; speech

defects are prevalent; large numbers have hearing defects and there are some who are epileptics and others who are blind.

"Surely there is more room here for us to co-operate in specific ways, and especially at professional staff level, in the interests of spastics, with all those charities who are serving these various handicaps."

"There are also many advantages in a greater

number of developments not exclusively for spastics but for multiple handicaps in collaboration with the Statutory Authorities and other charities."

Buildings

Earlier, Mr. Burn had said the disabled were discriminated against, and were obliged to suffer unnecessary economic deprivation.

"In the interests of the disabled we need a display

centre for aids and appliances and we and other charities should try to do something about this collectively..."

"We must take an increasing interest in the problems of the disabled regarding Town Planning and the planning particularly of public buildings which must embrace difficulties of accessibility, parking problems, staircases, ramps, lifts, toilets, etc."

The A.G.M.

It was essential, said Mr. Burn, to alert and to educate the nation regarding the difficulties of the disabled, so that the public were progressively more enlightened and would readily accept that no disabled person need be a "second class citizen."

More money

"The nation must create the conditions which will give all handicapped persons an equal opportunity to lead as normal a life as possible within their respective handicaps."

"Our Society and others helping disabled persons must do everything in our power to ensure that more money at national, local authority and regional hospital board level is allocated to disabled persons and also that this money is spent in the best interests of those whom we wish to help."

RECALLING THE death earlier this year of Helen Keller, the chairman spoke of the fallibility of trying to predict the capacity of any human being to lead a life worth living.

It was not for us to question how limited the prospects might appear, but to ensure that the facilities, the treatment and the right sort of environment existed for each such person to develop his full potential.

"We must help them to raise their horizons, to fulfil their objectives and perhaps also some of their dreams," he said.

"We must always remember that the most precious possession any human being has is his spirit, his

OUR NEED . . .

will to live, his sense of dignity and his whole personality.

"In the world of spastics and all disabled persons, we certainly need doctors, nurses, educationalists, therapists and specialists

in many other fields, but above all, we need dedicated men and women who are concerned with spastics as people first and who accept the challenge to help the whole person, his life, his hope and his ambitions."

WE'VE GOT A TARGET — LET'S BEAT IT

SUMMARISING at the end of the conference on National Spastics Week which followed the annual meeting, the chairman concluded: "We've got a target — let's try and beat it!" His words came after six study groups had considered separately all aspects of the week and made proposals for it.

They had first heard the Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, say that the hard graft, the work, the imagination and the drive for a National week had to come from the groups.

They wanted to have the advice of those who had run pilot weeks; they wanted to know how they felt about the adequacy of existing resources, and it was suggested that a Press officer should be appointed by every group taking part. Study group chairmen reported as follows:

Mr. D. S. Hewet (North-East)

FOUR GROUPS had experience of spastics weeks. Two had gone along conventional group lines and two had used national media. The differences in the results were remarkable. Where the first two raised £700 to £800 each the others raised in the region of £3,000 each.

The general feeling was that there was a great potential in National Spastics Week and all were very much for it. The average group could not successfully hold ambitious fund-raising activities without a lot of outside help. It was suggested that, in particular, schoolchildren and youth could be most useful — any group that put pressure on local youth would get results.



Mr. Hewet.

Mr. E. G. Williment (South-East)

SEVERAL GROUPS had had pilot schemes and had found that while they did well so far as publicity was concerned, they did not do so well on the financial side.

It was felt that there needed to be a very early start in organisation. They had experience where people had organised events on a very successful scale. One suggestion was that sherry parties might be held to enlist support.

One thing had come over clearly — they had to make up their minds whether they were after money or publicity. They should "not be content with no medals but should reach for the sky."

On publicity, it was suggested that one source might be persuading local firms who advertise in local papers to devote some of the space in the advertisements to the Spastics Week publicity.

It was also felt that TV advertising would be a great help although it was realised that this would be expensive. One question raised was how much should they spend on Spastics Week.



Mr. Williment.

Mr. I. M. Thomas (North-West)

PILOT SCHEMES had brought out a good many points which would need to be rectified for the National Week. Some groups could rely on their own efforts and some would need central organisation. The subject of television approached on a regional basis and also approaches to national stores was referred to, and it was felt that there was a general need for co-ordination within groups and also between each group and its neighbour.

It was also thought that many groups did not appreciate the detailed work that would have to be done in their areas. Activities should be started as soon as possible and under no circumstances should they start later than the middle of January.

On publicity, reference was made to the need for liaison between the groups and the Society, and it was emphasised that any documents which were to be issued should be "vetted" before this was done.

Dr. M. Griffiths (E. Midlands)

FOUR GROUPS in the East Midlands had had experience of pilot weeks. The question of involving spastics themselves had been discussed, it being considered that they were the best ambassadors and the best medium for showing



Mr. Thomas.

what needed doing and what could be done.

All were delighted to have national publicity. One remark was made in regard to information leaflets, that enough space should be left for local information to be inserted. Local publicity should be the responsibility entirely of local groups.

It was very important to have the right sort of relationship with the local Press, and it was time now to get on good terms with them.

On fund-raising, three points emerged. (1) Should National Week efforts interfere with local ones? It was felt that they should be regarded as an extra and a bonus, and local fund-raising should go on as before. (2) Fund-raising activities depended on local resources and help from outside bodies and it was felt that it was better to do a few things well rather than a lot badly. (3) Reference was made to the "almost impossibility" of saying what each group should do. The sponsored walk was highly recommended as a fund-raiser.



Dr. Griffiths.

One of the study groups at work. There were six in all.

Mr. F. G. Pearce (West)

THERE WAS NO previous experience here of the pilot scheme. It was stressed that they should endeavour to get the aid of the Church in starting off National Spastics Week by having special services. It was agreed that help would have to be brought in from outside groups, and one suggestion for rural areas at least was that it might be possible to have cattle auctions with farmers contributing beasts which would be sold for the benefit of the funds.

It was realised that other events would overlap but it was felt that these would be supplementary to National Spastics Week.

Help from HQ: Suggestion was made (from a member of Mr.

National Spastics Games: This should not cause any financial or accommodation difficulties for local groups since it was hoped that an outside form of sponsorship would cover all overheads and competitors and helpers would be accommodated either in the new building if available or in existing ones. The response was likely to be so great that transport would not be a worry.

Help from HQ: Suggestion was made (from a member of Mr.

Mr. S. V. Cullen (East)

THE GENERAL feeling was that, though full of foreboding about the means of organising the week, they were fully in support and were determined that all groups would put on events.

One point strongly made was that it was no good going to outside bodies and asking them to help unless they were able to say what the group itself was doing.

A church service was thought to be of real value and it was suggested that a local and locally known patron should be secured for the week. There was discussion of the need for co-ordination between the groups in each district. On publicity, there had in the past been difficulty where National publicity had coincided with local, and the point was made that there should be co-ordination here.



Mr. Cullen.

Other points

Stickers for cars: It was felt that the slogan "Time to help spastics" was an excellent one; the date should be sufficiently large in print; space should also be left for local information to be added.

Flag-days and knocks: Applications for flag days had to be in to chief constables by January 1969; groups could take advantage of the Society's blanket permission for door-knocks.

Williment's group) about the lack of helpers. He felt that if only the Society could send someone down for two or three days to make initial contact to get support, the local group could carry on from there.

Top attractions: Mr. Loring agreed to a speaker's suggestion that Park Crescent should circulate the top money-raising attractions, together with an indication of the amount of effort required in each case.

'SIGNS OF STRENGTH'

AS A PRELUDE to the formal business of both the extraordinary general meeting and the annual meeting which followed, those present stood in silence for a few moments in memory of their late Patron, Princess Marina and also of Mr. Charles B. Laird, former Chairman of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics and member of the Society's Consultative Council, who had on occasions acted as chairman of the Society's Consultative Council.

A number of special resolutions giving effect to a change of title from the "Executive Committee" to the Executive Council, bringing to an end the Consultative Council and other matters, were carried. The membership of the Executive was increased from a maximum of 12 to a maximum of 15.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Palmer, who proposed the adoption of the accounts, said that they seemed to him an excellent set in the sense that the balance sheet not only balanced but also exhibited very real signs of strength.

Salient

Investments had expanded from £5½ million to £6,162,000. The current market value was considerably higher than the balance sheet value of quoted investments, he said.

On income and expenditure Mr. Palmer noted that the S.O.S. appeals appeared to have done extremely well as compared with the previous year, although in this year's account there were the proceeds of two star record shows instead of one.

A salient feature of expenditure was that gross running costs of schools and centres had gone up by £240,000 but it was also true that they had

and District Spastics Association) were not passed.

Calling for the meeting to authorise the Executive Council to draw up a scheme for regional representation on the Council on the basis of two members from each region, Mr. Thomas said it was felt that there was a need for a review of the way in which the executive was elected.

Appealing for support for the resolution, he said he thought it was a very important matter and he asked the conference to discuss it and the executive to give it very close attention.

"I do suggest regions should have the right to send members to the Executive with their own ideas and their own suggestions."

Important

There was support for Mr. Thomas from Worthing, who felt that it was important that the problems of the groups on the ground should be known by the executive.

Another speaker, who spoke of the sincerity of the mover, nevertheless asked whether they wanted to rob the executive of the wide and varied experience of those who served on it? A number of other speakers, including Mr. W. G. Jehan strongly made similar references.

After hearing the discussion, Mr. Thomas and his seconder offered to withdraw the resolution but the offer was not accepted by the chairman, and the motion was put and rejected.

A further resolution from Mr. Thomas asking that the publicity and advertising policy of the Society should be fully examined by the executive with a view to effecting greater economy and efficiency was also rejected by 46 votes to 31.

Elections

Members elected to the Executive Council after a ballot were as follows: Mr. Dorrien B. E. Belson, company director of Henley-on-Thames; Dr. C. A. Cooke, Fellow and Senior Bursar of Magdalen College, Oxford; Miss Helen Garwood, social worker, of Croydon; Dr. Margaret Griffiths, medical practitioner of Compton, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. L. Peterson, Warden, University House, London, E.2; and Dr. R. A. Yorke, medical practitioner of Formby, Liverpool.

been able to secure a much more sizeable flow of cash by fees and grants, and Mr. Palmer thanked the staff for the work they had done in this direction.

He also spoke of productive output as one of the "very acceptable sums we can offset against the gross running cost of schools and centres."

Referring to the gross excess of income over expenditure of some £180,000, Mr. Palmer said this was something of a triumph.

It had been decided to put £175,000 of this temporarily to a Building Programme Equalisation Reserve. This was being done for the purpose of helping to maintain over the next five years a set programme of central and local capital development.

After mentioning the pending R.P.P. appeal, Mr. Palmer said the expectation that the Society might in this area of income be under quite considerable pressures in the near future was the motive for being cautious in their expectations and insisting that they would be in a most parlous state if they did not have their investments at the back of them.

Two resolutions proposed by Mr. W. G. Thomas (Gloucester



Joy Bennett's dress gets another stamp from Mr. D. A. Arter, managing director of Regional Pools Promotions.

Now button down to 'The Stamp'

"THE STAMP"—the new dance created by Frank and Peggy Spencer to help boost the sales of the Spastics Society's Christmas stamps was launched at a party at Park Crescent—and soon the floor resounded as the steps caught on.

After a reception, at which about 50 people taken from the telephone directory with the name of Stamp or Christmas were principal guests, the Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, explained the purpose of the event and then introduced Miss Spencer.

Assisted by members of Penge Formation Dancing Team, who recently did well in the European Dancing Championships, Miss Spencer described the steps, which have been devised to be danced to the Button-Down Brass version, on the Fontana label, of "Little Brown Jug."

The team then gave a complete run-through and finally

all those present were invited to join in.

"It's great," said one young enthusiast. And only one older dancer complained: "It's too energetic for me."

A number of promotions are being planned from which it is hoped "The Stamp" will help raise funds for the Society.

Footnote: Mr. William Christmas, of Blackheath, told "Spastics News" that in common with others of his name, he often received supposedly humorous telephone calls during the festive season. He had finally been persuaded to come to Park Crescent—and gave every evidence of enjoying himself.

This is a stick-up

MOST ATTRACTIVE eye-ful at the party to introduce "The Stamp" was lovely 19-year-old Joy Bennett, who works in Regional Pools Promotion's gift department.

A delightful girl who never lost her composure under a battery of camera flashes, Joy was dressed in a unique outfit—a dress made entirely out of The Spastics Society's Christmas stamps, which depict famous paintings in miniature. And at the end of the dance, not a stamp was out of place...

AND HERE'S HOW . . .

"SPASTICS NEWS" promised that in this month's issue, full instructions would be given on how to do "The Stamp."

So . . . first obtain a copy of "The March of the Little Brown Jug" by the Button Down Brass (Fontana). Play it through first to get an idea of the rhythm—which in fact is fast march time. Then:

1. Face your partner. Stand for four bars introduction, then mark time army style for the next eight bars.
2. Starting off with the left foot, march forward three paces, bringing the right foot up at the end and stamping it. At the same time partners slap hands (gents' right, ladies' left).
3. Three paces back (to your original place) ending up with a stamp.
4. Take a side step (gents to

What the burglar left behind

MR. TONY ELLIS is a spastic who believes in helping spastics. In his home town of Tiverton, Devon, he runs regular Bingo sessions to raise funds for the Exeter and Torbay District Spastics Society.

But thieves take no account of this kind of work. For while he was at his usual Monday bingo session at the New Hall, someone entered Mr. Ellis's home at 29 Broad Lane and stole £20.

Of this, £19 was money he had collected for the Society.

At Christmas, Mr. Ellis hopes to hand over £400, raised at the bingo sessions, to the spastics funds, to add to the £1,000 already raised by him during the past two years, and which was applied to the Building Fund of the new Comprehensive Spastics Centre and School being built at Exeter.

Mr. C. Vranich, the chairman of the society, told "Spastics News": "One very unfortunate result of this heartless burglary is that Mr. Ellis's wife, Barbara, who is also a spastic, has been under treatment suffering from severe shock for several weeks."

Social centre

by the sea?

PLANNING PERMISSION has been given for a social centre for spastics in Lowestoft.

This scheme is the result of a survey carried out among spastics in the Lowestoft and East Suffolk area to find out what type of provision was most needed.

It is expected that the centre will take about three years to build.



Joy and partner lead off in the first public performance of "The Stamp."

The dignity of integration

SPASTIC CHILDREN must be given the dignity of being integrated as far as possible with society, the Mayor of Bath, Alderman Roy Hiscocks, told Bath and District's Spastics Society when he took the chair at their annual meeting at the Lansdown Grove Hotel, Bath.

Members from West Wiltshire, Somerset and South Gloucestershire, attended the meeting.

National Spastics' Week Co-ordinator, Mr. Michael Reynolds said the National Society had now come to a crossroads

in its history. The pools promotion case, on which a lot of their funds depended, was still dragging on. It had brought home to them the need to boost their income in other ways.

Next year's National Spastics' Week was aiming for a national target of quarter of a million pounds.

Secretary Mr. Martin Price said the opening of the day centre was the culmination of six years work. Only a small number of children could be helped there, and it was time to take stock. Many other children needed help.

Stars took £1,000 (and thief took £100 box) AT S.O.S. SHOW



Vera Lynn gives a police officer details of the theft after the performances at Colchester.

VERA LYNN, the singing star, was one of those who took part in an all-star gala charity show at Colchester in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics' Wakes Hall Centre—and was robbed for her pains.

During the performance, at the A.B.C. Cinema, thieves took a £100 cosmetic box and a pair of gloves belonging to Miss Lynn, who is a vice-president of S.O.S., a raincoat belonging to her husband and a leather coat owned by the matron of Wakes Hall.

The cosmetic box was of great sentimental value, having been presented to her by impresario Jack Hylton.

Compere of the show, which raised about £1,000, was S.O.S. vice-president David Jacobs, and those appearing included Leslie Crowther, the chairman, Clinton Ford, Hope and Keene, Peter Goodwright, Lois Lane and Pearl Fawcett.

The orchestra was under the baton of Ivan Dozin, conductor of the Victoria Palace Orchestra and the concert was produced by John Bussell.

Hostess at the champagne buffet which followed was the

Marchioness of Tavistock, president of S.O.S. Many stars of radio, screen and television were also present.

Chairman Leslie Crowther represented the Stars Organisation for Spastics at a One People's Service at Westminster Abbey.

Sylvia Sims visited the White Horse, Woolwich to push over a pile of pennies containing £69, bringing the total to £131-13-7d.

Pierre Picton collected a cheque for £100 at Woldingham Village Club—the proceeds of darts matches in the area organised by Mr. Stocker, whose efforts have raised a total of over £1,000 for the S.O.S. funds.

The Stars Organisation for Spastics will benefit from part of the proceeds of a charity performance of "Jack and The Beanstalk" at the London Palladium on December 20. Cast includes Jimmy Tarbuck, Ivor Emmanuel, Jean Bayless and Arthur Askey.



Line-up of stars at the S.O.S. show include (left to right) David Jacobs, Hope and Keene, Pearl Fawcett, Clinton Ford, Vera Lynn, Leslie Crowther, Lois Lane and Peter Goodwright.

Sid James gets his cards

THERE IS NOTHING like going to a Christmas card factory to choose your Christmas cards. That's what actor Sid James, who lives in Iver, did.

Sid, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, went to Spastics Cards, The Ridgeway, Iver, to pick from over 80 designs. Helping him choose were beauty queen Miss Iver, 22-year-old Ivona Smudek of 14 The Close, Iver Heath, and N.C.R. section supervisor 18-year-old Helen Moody of 63 Swallowdale, Iver Heath.

Although he had a busy Saturday ahead—he was off to Pinewood Studios to film scenes for "Carry on Camping"—Sid took time to look round the factory, chat to the workers and sign autographs. It was a big Saturday all round for Spastics Cards. Managing Director John Kellett was able to announce that five million cards had been sold at that time—halfway to their target figure for this year.

Mr. Kellett presented Sid James with a spastic-made brooch for his wife, and gave a similar brooch to Miss Iver. Sid's Christmas card choice, by the way, was "Trees in the Snow" from the Old Masters range.



Sid, with Ivona and Helen to help him, makes his choice.

ROY EASTWOOD is a spastic, confined to a wheelchair, a familiar, friendly figure in Brighton who sits outside his home returning the cheery greetings of passers-by. His pride and joy was his watch. One day a youth stopped and chatted with him, asked to see the watch—and when Roy let him unstrap it, he ran off with it on his bicycle. Roy was heart-broken. But now, thanks to the kindness of another passer-by, he has a new one. "We don't even know her name," said Roy's mother.

Youngsters making bogus collections in the Chalfont St. Giles area, pretend the money is for

Briefly . . .

Ponds Home. A warning that such collections are unauthorised came from Mr. J. R. Mance, chairman of the Friends of the Spastics at Ponds, who said all bona fide members carry some kind of identification.

Spastics in the North who take GCE examinations are to be allowed as much time as they need to complete them, following complaints to the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board from a spastic who did not have enough time to complete his papers. The Board have also reversed a decision which originally gave a spastic,

Glyn Vernon, a failure in a history A level because his handicap prevents him from typing rapidly enough.

Make your contributions to the Spastics Society the new easy way — by transfer from your Giro account to the Society's.

Prested Hall, formerly a centre for Spastics, is to be given a new role by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, who are to turn it into a home for elderly people. Both are keen to

eliminate any "institutional" atmosphere and to keep the house as the family home it has become over the years.

Miss Ann Pearce, a resident of Coombe Farm Centre, Croydon, points out the difficulties which many spastics have in wrapping up their Christmas gifts. She suggests that it would be easier to use gaily-printed paper bags with adhesive tops.

Eight-year-old spastic girl, Denise Chapman, of 373 Beaumont Leys Lane, Stocking Farm, Leicester, has had her pushchair stolen from outside a supermarket while her mother was carrying her in the shop. Denise is totally crippled.

DEE-LIGHTFUL !

There were 150—many of them spastics—at Simon Dee's fireworks "Bonanza" in aid of Wake's Hall Centre. And it raised £150. Above: Where Simon's fans were concerned, it was anything but 'stand well clear.'



'TOP TEN'

Top Ten Promotions say that from January 4 the existing "Doublex" Pool is to be scrapped and will be replaced with a new "Top Ten" Pool.

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Motor car: an expensive necessity



A GREAT POET once wrote that "no man is an island", implying that no-one is completely self-sufficient but must have continuous contact with the rest of society to be a whole, contented, person.

I always feel that this quotation has particular significance for the severely handicapped person, for one of the biggest problems which he has to solve is how to prevent himself from becoming completely isolated from the rest of mankind.

Apart from the natural disadvantages caused by his handicap—particularly if he happens to have bad speech—by far the biggest barrier preventing this person from surmounting the false barrier between himself and the rest of society is that of transport.

In this respect many handicapped people are lucky. They are able to take advantage of the Ministry of Health scheme which provides them with a motorised invalid carriage.

Not true

Whatever the faults of this vehicle (and it is far from ideal) it does open up new possibilities for its driver, allowing him to get out and about and to mix with other people in a manner which would not otherwise be possible.

But there are many people too handicapped to drive this vehicle and, ironically, these are usually the very people to whom travel and communication poses the biggest problem.

The only thing which gives this person any chance to leave his home is the motor-car. Now I am perfectly aware that in today's affluent society every-

By G. Vernon

one is supposed to be able to afford to buy a car. But this simply is not true.

While many more people do own cars now, there are still many families to whom car ownership is still very much a dream. If the severely handicapped person belongs to one of these families he is sentenced to a life of near segregation and isolation from all but the immediate circle of family and family friends.

In other words he is forced to fall back on himself, to become an "island." But "no man is an island." Therefore is it not fair to argue that this person is bound to become something less than whole?

Perhaps I am over-stating my case slightly, but the problem is none the less a real one.

Another argument I hear sometimes is that before the invention of the modern means of transport the vast majority of people lived out whole lifetimes, often without leaving the small village in which they were born, and they managed without suffering any ill-effects.

Or did they fail to reach their full potential without realising what was missing?

Anyway, things are different now. Local communities are less self sufficient than, out of sheer necessity, they used to be. And would we argue that because people used to manage, for example, without the wonders of modern medicine, a certain section of the community can manage without them now?

Addition

I do not suggest that every family which contains a handicapped member should be provided with a free car on the state. This is clearly impractical apart from the cost of it, abuse of such a scheme would be easy.

But I do think that something could be done to help these families to meet the sometimes crippling costs, if not of buying, then at least of maintaining a vehicle. This could take the form either of a direct grant, or, perhaps more ideally, of an addition to the weekly "supplementary allowance" paid to the handicapped person by the Ministry of Social Security.

Surely it is completely unfair that the less severely handicapped person should be entitled to a free invalid carriage, costing, I believe, over £300, which is taxed, insured, and maintained by the State, and also allowed a grant towards fuel costs, while his more handicapped brother with his even more acute travel problem should receive precisely nothing.

Even if only the fuel allowance was given to all handicapped people it would be something—if only proof that the State recognised the problem.

In a recent issue of "Spastics News," Michael Flanders pointed out that the basic cost of living is higher for anyone in a wheelchair. Transport is without doubt one of the biggest factors contributing to this, and it obviously hits those



families in the lower income groups hardest.

Perhaps he was then attending a special school, which are very often far from home. In this case his parents have to choose between becoming reconciled to seeing him only during the holidays, or spending the money which would normally constitute their savings on travelling to the school to visit their child.

Then when he grows up, he has either to spend the whole of his adult life in a Residential Centre, or perhaps worse in many ways, to rot at home.

The car, his only practical means of transport, his only passport to even the minimum amount of freedom, is either completely out of the question, or his parents have to shoulder a new, almost intolerable burden.

Better

In many areas I believe that old age pensioners are allowed to travel on buses for reduced fares, or sometimes free of charge. We cannot use buses for obvious reasons and—returning to the theme of the higher cost of living—taxis are infinitely more expensive.

But would it be impossible to devise a scheme by which anyone genuinely bound to a wheelchair would be entitled to a certain number of taxi-rides at reduced fare, say on a monthly or yearly basis?

Such a scheme would not be perfect; it would not give the complete freedom which one would really desire, and long journeys, such as holidays, would remain a great problem.

But it would be a part solution, and much better than the negative state of affairs which exists at the moment when even the nearest town and its facilities are often completely out of reach.

One hears frequently the argument that in the modern world a car can no longer be regarded as merely a luxury. If a non-handicapped person can argue on these lines, how much stronger the argument becomes from the point of view of the chairbound.

To him, a car is certainly more, much more, than a luxury. It is indeed a very expensive necessity.

Viscount Muirshiel opens Scottish school

CORSEFORD Residential School for Spastics has been opened by Viscount Muirshiel, Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire.

The school, at Johnstone, near Glasgow, cost £280,000, of which The Scottish Educational Department provided 60%. The balance was raised by enthusiastic groups including The Scottish Stars Organisation for Spastics, Arbroath Black & White Minstrels, and many others.

At Corseford, the educational, physical, social and emotional aspects of children with cerebral palsy are handled with understanding and insight.

Encouraged

Although priority for the basic skills of reading, writing and counting is essential, the school curriculum also includes religious instruction, broadcast and television lessons, music, art and handwork.

History and geography projects as well as a means of instruction, teach the children that their contribution is important.

Children are encouraged to think and plan for themselves. As they grow older their future on leaving school is discussed freely with them and work in class is channelled towards this end.

Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and tuition for deaf Spastics is an important part of the school curriculum. Children are withdrawn from classrooms for therapy according to their individual needs. A large hydrotherapy pool is a feature of the school.

Close contact

In preparation for school leaving, senior girls are encouraged to make their own beds, wash some of their clothes and cook, while boys where possible attend out-of-school activities independently.

The importance of close contact with home and family is fully acknowledged throughout the school, and letters, telephone calls and week-ends home are encouraged.

The children's health and welfare are the responsibility of a fully qualified residential school nurse.



Viscount Muirshiel is shown work in a classroom by Mr. K. E. Guest, Chairman of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, Western Region.

Athetoid at large in the kitchen

IT IS ONLY by living alone that one can discover the joys of true independence, but this, like anything else, has its disadvantages. Eating, for instance, is one drawback for a solo athetoid like myself.

Shaky hands can be a real nuisance when it comes to cooking and the preparation of food. However, since "one must eat and drink in order to stay alive, I have been forced to find my own way round these problems.

It was interesting to read Margaret Mather's comments on the subject in "Spastics News" some months ago. Here she said, for example, that she "pours out" in the kitchen in order to avoid carrying tea things.

NIGHT-CAP

I do just the opposite. I carry a tray into the living room, loaded with cup and saucer, sugar basin, instant coffee and a little milk. Then I go back for the hot water, either in a kettle or a large covered jug, so as to avoid slopping liquid over the rim of an open container.

Similarly, while preparing my "night-cap," I put a spoonful of cocoa into a beaker on the bedside table. When the milk boils I carry the saucepan to the mug and pour out in the bedroom. Half a pint of milk in a two-pint saucepan does not come far enough up the sides to slop over, however shaky one's hands, and the weight of the pan in itself acts as a steadying factor.

This system works quite well unless the phone or doorbell rings when I am carrying a loaded tray across the landing. A sudden noise will make me start violently and everything goes flying. This lends a certain spirit of adventure to the enterprise.

PADDED GLOVES

Shopping presents other minor problems. Clumsy hands can be particularly frustrating at the supermarket cash desk when one is fumbling with money and trying to fill a shopping basket at the same time, a long queue making impatient noises in the background.

However, perhaps the thing which I find most difficult is removing hot dishes from the oven. Padded gloves make awkward fingers clumsier than ever.

I usually get round this difficulty by cooking stews on top of the stove, but I believe it is possible to buy a casserole with a wooden rod which can be slotted through the handles for easier lifting.

LITTLE SCOPE

Catering for one person also imposes a limit on the range of suitable foodstuffs. It is possible, though expensive, to buy individual portions of most frozen, tinned and quick-dried packet foods. These are an excellent standby, but I feel that some nutritional value may be lost in eating prepacked foods all the time.

I regard eggs as essentially tea-time food and try to eat fresh vegetables and meat or fish at least four times a week. However, there is little scope for variety in the smaller cuts of meat which are suitable for grilling or frying.

It makes life more interesting when I have somebody to stay for the week-end so that we can have a roast.

Elizabeth Miller.

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YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO A MOTORING FRIEND CAN BRING IN 10/- TO HELP SPASTICS

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For every member introduced by the Spastics Society, the Automobile Association will donate 10/- in return.

So you could solve some of your Christmas present problems in an easy and original way this year — and help spastics at the same time.

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service, for instance; free advice on holiday routes; help with legal problems. Your motoring friends would be delighted to be made members.

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DECEMBER

1968

What's it all about?

IT WAS RECENTLY SAID that the last thing an editor should do is to ask his readers what they want. He should know by instinct, and give it to them before they know themselves. For this newspaper, such an exercise would pose exceptional problems.

One section of its readership is spastic and would like "Spastic News" to be full of news and articles about spastics and their special difficulties.

Another group, those concerned with and about spastics, look to it as a sort of "house journal," a channel for ideas and information for Society and Group workers.

And there is another part, tens of thousands strong, whose association with spasticity is very tenuous indeed but whose good-will and interest are essential to the continuing fortunes of the Society.

Reconciling these differing readerships in a single publication is difficult to say the least, particularly as there is a fourth element to be taken into account.

The Society itself regards "Spastics News" primarily as a means of informing the general public of its own aims and achievements and the needs and problems of the people it serves. Its effectiveness here becomes more and more apparent each month as newspapers, radio and television take up subjects which first catch the eye in these pages.

To justify the means

Properly handled, items which might well have been considered trivial in the necessarily specialised circles within which some Society and Group workers operate, have so captured the public attention that a free good-will boost comparable to the effect of the most expensive forms of advertising has resulted.

And so it may be that "serious" news and views gathered by this publication will be projected with a "popular" emphasis which some of its originators find annoying. Sometimes, facts which seem to them important but which, in the national context of our readership, are irrelevant will be omitted altogether. And often it will be necessary to reject items completely.

But before venting their indignation upon the editor, those who feel affronted should remind themselves of the ends which justify the means.

"Spastics News" does not exist for the aggrandisement of the individual nor for the greater glory of the group. It exists solely to remind society of its duty to an important section of its own ranks.

People who see this clearly will bring the Spastic cause immense benefit if they do all they can to expand its circulation and influence as a means of telling Britain, in a way which will make it pay some attention, what has been done, what is being done and what needs to be done for and by the cerebral palsied members of the community.

He immediately invokes in me the question: "Where have I seen his like before?" and as he crosses the railway footbridge to meet me, the answer comes pat: In one of those Francis Durbridge television mysteries . . .

The atmosphere is just right. The country station; the fast, open sports car waiting in the yard; the urgent drive through winding lanes; the unexpected braking to a stop beside a field gate; the clipped words: "We'll talk here where we won't be disturbed."

At any moment, I feel, one of these vans swooping past our stopping-place is going to raise its rear shutters and someone will spray us with bullets . . .

Minds that break their bonds

The reality of an hour with Reg Maling is less dramatic but still exciting to the imagination. A stimulating man with whom it is difficult to be easy, he can yet inspire other minds with his own vision, a vision of bodies once useless brought to new life by the application of his own inventiveness to their desperate problems.

Give him only a whisper of breath and he will shape and direct and amplify it until bells ring, lights flash, doors open, machines hum, words spill from typewriters. Through his devices, the dumb can speak; minds seething with imprisoned ideas can break the bonds imposed by disablement; limbs bereft of all but fractional movement can encompass tasks which are mountain-moving in comparative terms.

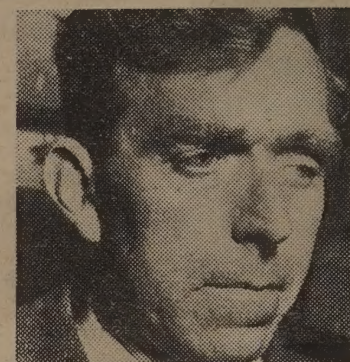
These are the results for others. For himself, they have not been so tangibly rewarding.

"We are just a hut in a field," he says. Later, I am to see what he means in the small prefabricated building

Hands and minds developing intricate mechanisms can bring other hands and minds to life. Hundreds of disabled people owe to these hands and this mind their ability to communicate ideas and action.

Proceeding to the limit

Interesting people



Reg Maling
Inventor

By Jack Gowen

where his electronic marvels are wrought. But just now we are sitting in a car somewhere in Buckinghamshire and he is talking, with the taut precision of one whose beliefs and attitudes, right or wrong, are unshakably held.

It began with a water-skier with a broken neck. Maling had been working in electro-chemistry in Aylesbury and had become interested in the problems presented by patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Medical men, he found, were not very good at expressing their problems in engineering terms; if they could be so expressed, they could generally be solved.

One patient, the water-skier, was virtually paralysed below the neck and the nursing staff had hung a whistle near his lips so that he could attract attention.

Maling thought about this, and he had a friend who was in electronics, devised small switches which responded sensitively to pressure. Using these, the patient was able to operate a tape-recorder by light pressure or suction to a tube.

The cleaned-up version

From this beginning, they showed that by setting out all the letters of the alphabet on a grid, rather like a map reference system, they could enable a patient to extract the letters by various blow-suck combinations and operate an electronic typewriter by remote control.

This spare-time work was enthusiastically received by the hospital and the Polio Research Fund, and soon they were offered a grant. Instead of using it to bring in technicians, they threw up their

own jobs, took the grant as their salaries and set to work at the hospital.

The idea was that the Ministry of Health would consider supplying their equipment on the National Health Service if their research was a success.

The elaborate specifications they finally decided on took two or three years to develop and this, Maling admits, was a mistake. In fact, the control which the Ministry eventually chose to issue was a kind of cleaned-up version of the much simpler prototype which the unit had constructed before they took up their grant.

Like most inventors specialising intensively within a limited field of activity, Maling does not love institutions. The details are not a matter for record here; enough to say

that there was a certain siveness in relation between the researchers the Fund and the hospital; the grant was not renewed the end of the fourth year.

Possum was on its own. Nowadays, Maling confides to being a little tired of voluntary societies.

Those who run them, he must realise that inventor by nature single-minded; need an understanding of makes inventors tick.

"Properly handled, they produce excellent work or prisingly slender support. In the absence of this understanding a lot of good schemes don't get developed."

This, of course, is a far standpoint of inventors though not all are fighters. Reg Maling happens to

Tell me, said the doctor, how long

LETTERS

have you had you

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1. should be as concise as possible to avoid undue delay in publication. Please print name and address clearly. Ten shillings a year is paid for each published letter from a spastic.

just decorative. I will like to pay shipping charges also send a contribution of ten dollars to your organization for the box.

Hoping to hear from you the near future concerning request.

ARTHUR H. 258 High Street, North Attleboro, Mass.

Checkmate

I HAVE JUST received November number "Spastics News" and am interested in the item the Spastic Games at Stoke Mandeville next July.

Being a 39-year-old bound spastic, I reckon do a 100 yards in 35 seconds down hill, with the wind behind me!

I doubt if this would me to take part in any it would be more likely me a hospital bed for night, or a fine from the Seriously, I think

BUSMEN, CHILDREN, MYSTERY MAN, TOO

THE SPIRIT of independence is strong in 23-year-old Marian Ashworth. But even getting to work is difficult for her, for she, like thousands of others is a spastic.

For eight years she travelled to work on the same bus each morning. When she changed jobs to work nearer home she did not forget the people who had helped her.

For in an open letter she says "Thank you" to the scores of people who helped her get to work.

Thanks to the busmen for their patience and help; thanks to school children for their chivalry; and thanks to the mystery man who helped her back to the bus stop when her work was finished.

Said Marian at her Royton home: "The conductors and drivers were really wonderful. The children were always so courteous and friendly. And at night a man used to arrange that his evening stroll coincided with my coming out of work so he could help me back to the bus."



(Photo by courtesy of "Oldham Chronicle")

SINCE I have been in Liverpool, I have been to hospital several times for operations. It is amazing how little people understand about spastics.

The nurses ask you to "keep still and relax"—and this tends to make you worse. I once asked a nurse if she had ever learnt about spastics. She said that she had learnt very little. I suppose the reason for this is that they don't come across many.

I went to a supply depot in a local hospital to see about an indoor powered wheelchair. I went to see the doctor, and to my surprise he asked me how long I had had my spastic complaint! I understood that all were born with it.

It seemed very funny to me that he should ask me such a question. Whether he had forgotten or whether in fact he ever knew, I don't know. I'm

very sorry to hear that you have to write this letter to you and tell you that the collecting box girl which I had has been stolen from my gateway.

I have reported it to the Blackpool Police, but they do not seem to have much hope for me. We always used to bring her in each night, then in May last we left her out by mistake and heard someone putting a lot of coins in her very late on, so we started to leave her out, and our collections have been fairly good this season.

Now I feel sure with the end of the season we should have brought her in each night until next season.

We pet-named her Sally Anne, and feel as though we have lost an old friend. Will it be possible for us to have another—she was the dark haired, red-dressed one with a black cat.

Hoping they can trace the RAT who has done this.

D. SARJANTSON Verona House, 44 Tyldesley Road, Blackpool.

sure I'm not the only one — there must be hundreds in the same boat. I would like to hear the views of other spastics who have been in hospitals and similar places.

JOHN PUDNEY

Angers House, 2 Church Road, Liverpool.

Room-mate

WHEN visiting England last summer, I saw many of your collection boxes on store counter-tops. I would very much like to have one for my room at school.

The box would in no way be used for a commercial purpose,

Poor Sally . . .

Now I feel sure with the end of the season we should have brought her in each night until next season.

We pet-named her Sally Anne, and feel as though we have lost an old friend. Will it be possible for us to have another—she was the dark haired, red-dressed one with a black cat.

Hoping they can trace the RAT who has done this.

D. SARJANTSON

Verona House, 44 Tyldesley Road, Blackpool.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your spastic complaint . . .

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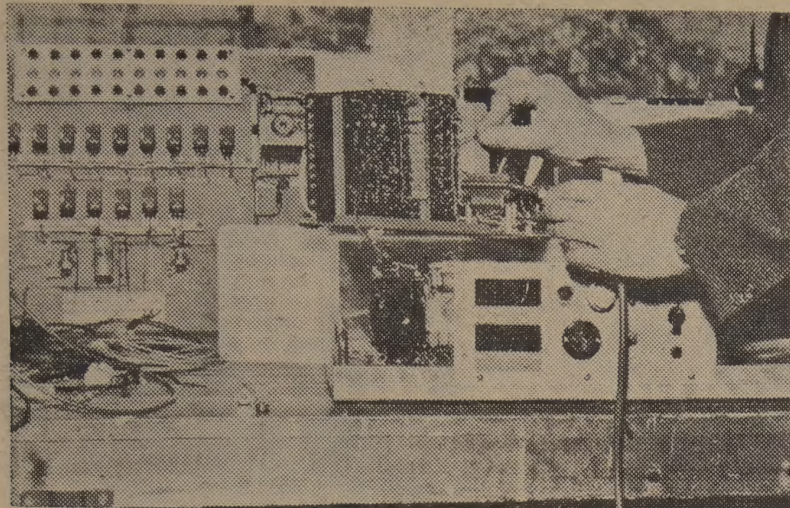
THUR H. POST

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fighter.

While waiting to learn whether the Ministry's contract would still come to them, the Maling team, which by this time numbered seven, had to move out of the hospital.

His former employer at Aylsham made available an acre of ground and, in a tearing hurry, they got hold of a prefabricated building.

"We dug the foundations and laid the concrete ourselves," he says. "The hut was up in about five days and we got cracking."

Because of the absence since then of money for research, progress has been slow in that direction. What is done is paid for by being efficient in producing bread-and-butter lines for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour—Possum control units, and electric typewriter systems.

Existence is a better word

The inability to communicate is not solely the handicap of the severely disabled. With Reg Maling, it was one of various reasons why overtures in the direction of research support from the Spastics Society and the Semball Trust were not pursued; perhaps, too, it explains in part his impatience with voluntary societies, as well as with other institutions.

At any event, he is quietly certain that the research side of the work will eventually be accepted as a Medical Research Council project, but one suspects even so, that he will want to dictate the conditions under

which he would "accept the disadvantages of establishment."

So, apart from freedom of action, what has he achieved for himself after years of devoted and single-minded work for which many disabled are profoundly grateful?

Any income he derives has to be "lent back" into the organisation, and so "existence" is a better way of describing his condition. Yet he would not change it.

All satisfactions from the job

He has always had a feeling for systems, and an urgent inner drive that makes him "proceed to the limit," to define the limitations of the system he is considering.

"So I am certain that it is, in fact, possible to get a disabled person achieving the world's speed typing record, and this is one of my ambitions. We are working towards this, because it would be a great fillip for all disabled people throughout the world to know that one of their number had taken such a record."

And he hopes, if he gets time, to pursue the commercial applications which his work obviously must have, as another way into financial independence.

"But power does not mean anything to me. Cash doesn't really mean much. All my satisfactions have come from doing the job, and I wouldn't exchange any of these for anything I have seen that sheer wealth provides."

contest would be a good idea if it could be arranged, for all spastics who, like myself, enjoy a good game. What do other readers think?

With best wishes and Christmas greetings to you and all your readers.

RICHARD TALBOT.
Westone Lodge,
Northampton.

Playtime

I AM writing to tell you of a grand effort made by a few children during the school holidays.

One young girl, Elaine Foreman, wrote a short play, gave all the children she could a part, and they practised for about a week.

Charging a small fee, they managed to collect 6/- which I am enclosing. It was all their own effort without any outside help, and as their ages range from only 6-11 years, something to be proud of.

A. M. HALL
30 Springfield Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells.

Prayer

I WOULD like to say what a wonderful paper the Spastics News has turned out to be from a magazine.

I have tried to compose a prayer for spastics, who need

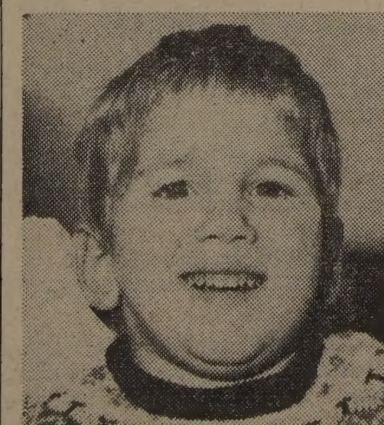
our prayers and support, and for those of us who in our work try to help them to lead better and more normal lives. Please bless all spastics everywhere.

Help those who are badly handicapped and please help them to give the best they can,

And please bless those who work for the Society and help them to build up real interest from everyone so that the lives of spastics can continue to become happier ones.

JULIET BINNING
Iver,
Bucks.

A SEAT FOR DARYL



Happy Daryl
(Photo by courtesy of
"Leicester Mercury").

After 20 years, there are still challenges to be overcome but . . .

The Peto Method is more than a

transitory idea

DURING OCTOBER a group of some 50 therapists and teachers met at Castle Priory College, Wallingford to hear about and discuss Conductive Education for the Motor Disabled, both as it is employed in Hungary, and in its application in two centres in England where experiments are proceeding.

An address on the method by Dr. Maria Hari, Director of the Institute for the Conductive Education of the Motor Disabled, Budapest, since the death last year of Dr. Peto, originator of these techniques, was read by Mrs. Cotton. Dr. Hari was present at the conference.

Conductive Education welds treatment and education into a single programme, using as a basis the connection between movement and speech, in which the child is the active participant—guided by his conductor who combines the roles of teacher, therapist and houseparent.

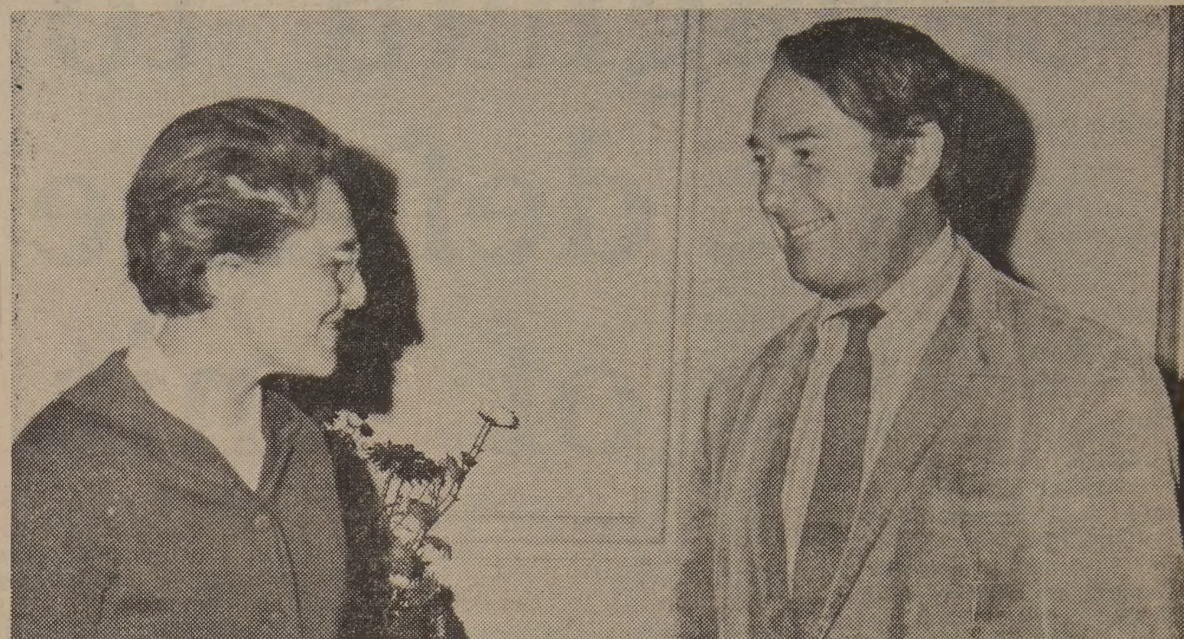
It is inherent in the application of the method that the child does not separate the various parts of his programme by associations with different persons or a different environment, and that the continuity of a single, carefully structured programme ensures a greater degree of progress and a greater measure of emotional stability.

Word rhythm

Few distractions are in the room where the child spends his day (and in Hungary also sleeps), and specially designed chairs with studs to aid pushing and balance, and plinths which the child uses as table, desk and bed are the principal items of furniture.

The child's efforts of movement are aided by his attempts at speech—the conductor leading the group in such exercises as "I open my hands", "I make a fist"—followed by a slow count of one to five—the rhythm of the words assisting to produce conscious control of the required movement.

The child works in a group



Dr. Hari and the Director of the conference.

therapist, who is working as part of a team using this method at Claremont School, Bristol, and Mrs. Seglow, physiotherapist, who has introduced these techniques to a group of Spastic children.

All showed obvious confidence in this new approach and expressed a firm desire not to return to their former methods of treatment. Films showing the progress of the group at Luton were shown and explained by Dr. G. Fagg, con-

From Mrs. J. W. Knowles

PRINCIPAL OF CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

—in Budapest between 12 and 24 in number—and the conductor is responsible for the work of the whole group. By this collective approach the child is compelled to help himself as much as possible, can follow the responses of others within the group, and, by not being the focus of attention, as in the individual therapy situation, becomes less afraid of making an inadequate attempt at performing a given task.

Working and living with such a group integrates the child into a social situation, and gives an opportunity for developing close relationships with others.

Training

The criterion for admission to the Institute is not in the severity of the physical handicap, but in the ability to work within a group, and a trial or assessment period is held initially, to discover how far this is feasible. The aim of Conductive Education is to develop sufficient physical, educational and social skills for children to proceed to a school within the normal State system, and thence to a self supporting adult life.

Conductors are specially trained for four years in the Institute itself, and at Budapest University, and one of their main tasks is to form such a relationship with each child that within its programme of tasks it experiences success.

Dr. Hari's address, read by Mrs. E. Cotton, provoked great interest and led to discussion. Some of the queries which related to practical skills were answered by the showing of films of various groups of children within the Institute.

Whatever criticisms might be raised, no one could fail to be impressed by the amount of hand function some of these severely handicapped children had acquired, and by the obviously affectionate relationships between the groups and their conductors.

The afternoon session, under the chairmanship of Mr. Leslie Gardner, was devoted to descriptions of the work by three therapists, Miss Margaret Parnwell, the occupational therapist who has been involved with the experimental group of athetoid children at Luton, Mrs. Wilkes, speech

sultant paediatrician.

Miss Ram, Head teacher of Claremont School for Spastics in Bristol, outlined her reasons for encouraging the experiment which has recently started there. Serious doubts about the way that some of her former pupils, who had acquired basic educational skills in school, were still compelled to accept a large degree of dependence, had led her to feel that something further was needed to aid this development during the early years.

The meeting closed with discussion led by Mrs. Cotton, who pioneered the work in England, and helped to prepare the conference. Many readers will be familiar with the account of her work at Luton, which she wrote in Special Education Vol. 56, No. 4, Dec. 1967. It was refreshing that the discussion was not a time for argument about comparative methods, but a genuine attempt by all present to find out and understand this new form of treatment and education.

Teachers and therapists may have their doubts about the underlying principles of the method, and its practice as part of the current educational system in this country, with its various professional groups, will undoubtedly present difficulties to organisers and staff alike.

Impressed

It remains to be seen how far the experimenters can overcome the challenges, but over 20 years of work in this field in Hungary makes it more than a transitory idea to be lightly dismissed, and the metaphysical concept of the triumph of conscious control of wayward movement will certainly appeal to those whose aims to involve the whole child have been negated in more passive methods of training and treatment.

Whatever the sequel to this conference, one cannot have failed to be impressed by Dr. Hari's deep concern and knowledge of children's needs, while her obvious sincerity and unswerving belief in the principles outlined by Dr. Peto serve as an inspiration to all who work with cerebral palsied children—whatever their discipline and training may be.

In Parliament

How many beds?

MR. JAMES SCOTT-HOPKINS (West Derbyshire) asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many hospital beds there are for the mentally sick and sub-normal adolescents, and what estimate he has made of the total number needed to meet requirements.

Mr. Julian Snow, Parliamentary Secretary, replied that there were about 13,050 mentally ill and 6,250 sub-normal patients aged 15 to 19 in hospitals in England and Wales. About 250 beds were provided in special units for mentally ill adolescents, for which the total need was estimated to be about 1,000.

Mr. Scott-Hopkins said that there was totally inadequate provision. In the Midlands, and particularly Derbyshire, there was great need for this type of accommodation. Mr. Snow replied that one could exaggerate the size of the problem, but nevertheless it was serious. The formula was to provide 20 to 25 beds of this type per million of the population, a total of 970 to 1,200 in due course. Seventy more beds would be available in the next twelve months. He thought they would achieve the overall required figure in a reasonable time.

The record

MR. COSTAIN (C. Folkestone and Hythe) asked the Secretary of State what plans he has to improve community care for the mentally ill to enable patients at present in hospital to be discharged.

Mr. Snow replied that plans for the deployment of local authority services for the mentally ill were set out in the Government's White Paper, "Health and Welfare—Development of Community Care."

But Mr. Costain pressed him on the matter and asked him to appreciate that there was a shortage of accommodation in hospitals. This had been indicated by the volume of correspondence on the subject.

Mr. Snow replied: "I am quite certain of my facts when I say that the record of this Government is better than the record of any previous Government, both regarding hostels, day centres, workshops and, above all perhaps, social workers. Our building and recruitment figures are strikingly in support of our progressive policy in this matter."

Callaghan to defence of unit

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY was not only strong, energetic and industrious—it knew how to direct its efforts into the most worthwhile channels, said the Home Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan, when he officially opened the Society's new Adult House Unit in Cyncoed Road, Cardiff.

Describing London's recent protest demonstrators as "young idiots," Mr. Callaghan said there were many people who felt very strongly about the ills and injustices of life. But, unlike The Spastics Society, they let their emotions run away with them into ways that could do no good at all.

The Home Secretary said he was glad to see the new Unit occupying a position close to the town and in the centre of a residential community.

So selfish

"I cannot believe that anyone in Cardiff would be so selfish as to think that anyone with a handicap should be hidden away out of sight," he declared.

The Unit, a Victorian mansion bought and converted by the Society at a cost of more than £98,000, represents a new experiment in residential care. Its aim is to foster self-help and social responsibility by encouraging residents to help each other, and a careful balance will be kept between the lightly handicapped and those with heavier disabilities.

This will also enable the Unit to be run with a far smaller staff than is needed in other residential centres. It will eventually accommodate 21 spastic men and women, most of them travelling each day to jobs at the Society's nearby Sully Work Centre.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said in thanking Mr. Callaghan that South Wales was one of the seedbeds from which the Society had grown.

"In fact, when the Society's building programme was slashed three years ago, the South Wales project was left intact," he said. "There is some evidence, albeit fragmentary at this stage, that the incidence of cerebral palsy is higher in South Wales than in other parts of England and Wales. Certainly the demand for services is very strong."

Blueprint

"I am of the opinion that a series of surveys should be undertaken, possibly by a University or Hospital Board,

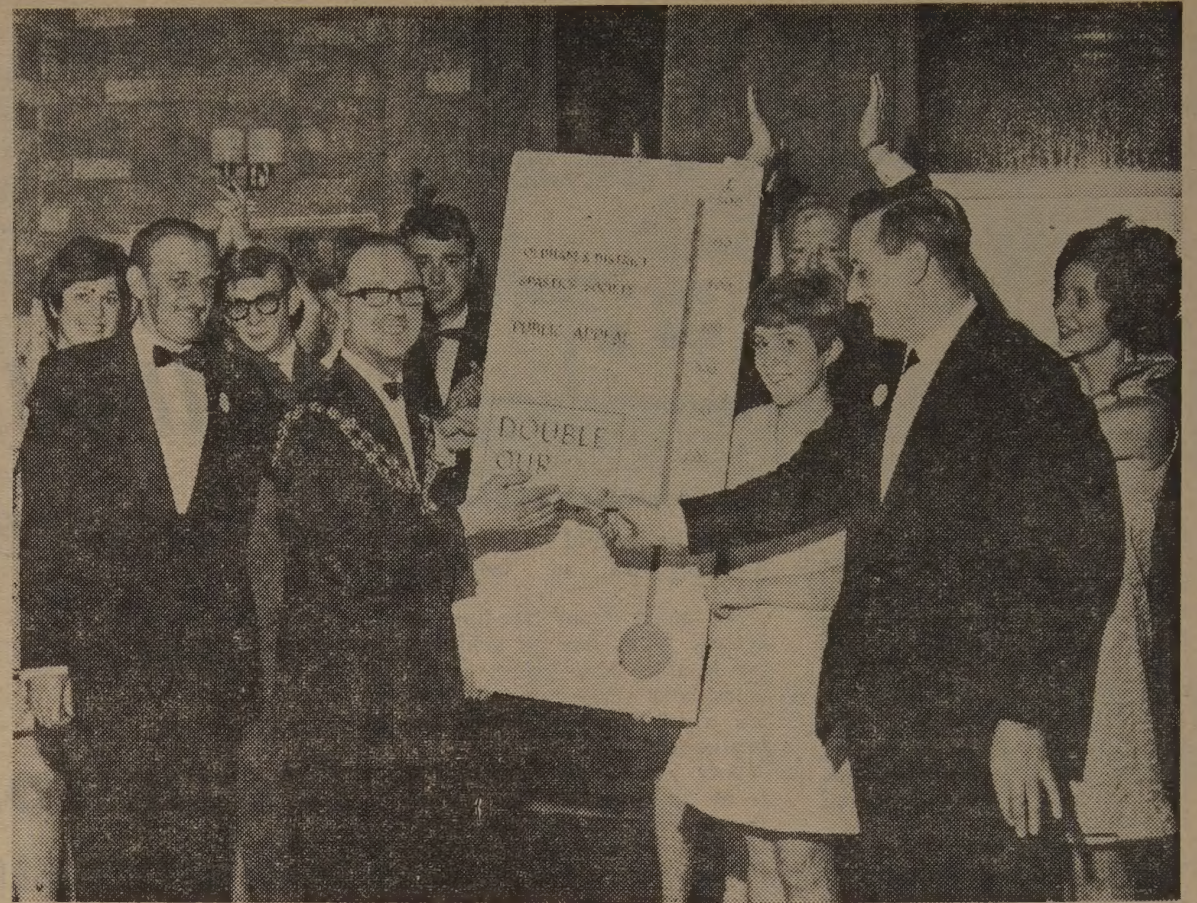
which would ascertain the incidence and prevalence of cerebral palsy and perhaps other similar handicaps, and act as a blueprint for future joint action by Government and voluntary bodies."

Mr. Loring said that in addition to the new Cardiff Unit the Society and its local Groups had so far built three work centres, two day centres, two hostels and a residential school in South Wales—an achievement which places the Society and its Groups in the forefront of voluntary societies working in the area.

Step further

Mr. Callaghan was welcomed by Mr. A. P. Moira, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society, who said the new Unit was a major step forward in providing for handicapped people.

"We have tried here to move nearer to 'Main Street.' We feel that the place of handicapped people is in the middle of things, and we have tried to take this step further in Cardiff," he said.



The Mayor of Oldham, Ald. Robert Bailey, hands over the all-important £1 note to appeals chairman Mr. Roy Stanley.

(Photo by courtesy of "Oldham Chronicle").

Only 21 failed

It was expected that £350 would be available for Lincolnshire's Spastics Centre at Scunthorpe as a result of a 20-mile walk arranged by the Stamford and District Spastics Society.

There were 128 starters for the walk—and only 21 dropped out. First to finish were two airmen from R.A.F. Wittering.

Only £1 — but it meant

£500 from the mystery

man of Oldham . . .

IT WAS ONLY £1—but it was a great night for Oldham and District Spastics Society when the Mayor of Oldham handed it over.

For that £1 took the Society's fund past the £500 mark — and that meant that an anonymous donor would double the sum.

And at a secret meeting later, the donor, who insists on remaining anonymous, happily handed over his £500 contribution and said: "Thanks are due to the public and firms of Oldham for their great support, and especially from some of the pensioners who have sent in donations at great sacrifice."

Bigger number

"It was a far greater effort for them than it was for me."

He added: "I would have been a very disappointed man if the Spastics Society had not taken up my challenge to raise the £500 and achieved it."

In fact, the total raised by the society now amounts to £700, so there is now £1,200 available which will go towards running the society's two centres.

Permission is being sought to increase the number of spastics at the centres from 25 to 35 — adults as well as children.

... AND DOUBLE YOUR MONEY MAN PAYS UP AGAIN

It was a case of "double your money" at the Golden Key Club, Hull, when a push-over of spastics pennies was held there in February, 1967.

For when the pile in his club totalled £20, Mr. Harry Keys doubled it, making £40 in all.

And in October this year, when actor and S.O.S. Vice-president Jack Howarth demolished two beacons in the same club, Mr. Keys turned the resulting £82 17s. into a round £100.

At the same time, Mr. Howarth happened to mention that he had "never had a tenner yet" for the autographed pictures he sells for the charity — and Mr. Keys promptly bought one for £10.

Sentence on 'collector' is suspended

A man who admitted organising an illegal collection for a non-existent spastics organisation denied at Birmingham Magistrates' Court that he had intended gaining any money for his own use.

"I was thinking of forming a club to raise money for spastic and mentally handicapped children. The collections were taken with the very best intentions," said Raymond Leslie Roberts, 25, of Caerphilly, South Wales.

Mr. R. M. Dunstan, prosecuting, said Roberts claimed to be collecting for the Midland Society for Spastic and Mentally Handicapped Children, but in fact no such society existed.

The case came to light when pamphlets were distributed appealing for donations towards a new centre for spastic children in the Midlands. The pamphlets bore Roberts' name and address.

Roberts was given a three-month prison sentence, suspended for two years while he was of good behaviour.

There is, of course, a bona-fide Midland Spastic Association. —Editor.

New branch is born

Chorley supporters have formed a local branch of the Preston and District Spastic Society.

The Preston Society's chairman, Mr. T. R. Parkinson, led a meeting at which representatives from several organisations agreed to form the branch and to hold a further meeting at which officials will be elected and future plans discussed.

WANTED

Three-speed tricycle, adjustable to adult size, for small 13-year-old. Good condition. Mrs. Holmes, 7 Ashness Gardens, Greenford (Mdx.), Tel. 01-902-4224

REGIONAL CHANGES WELCOMED

FOURTEEN representatives of various local authorities were among the 150 delegates to the first annual regional conference of the North-East Region of The Spastics Society held at Harrogate.

Lady Masham, President of the Leeds and District Spastics Society, was in the chair.

Mr. D. S. Hewet, chairman of the North Regional Advisory Committee, reported on the changes under discussion on the structure of the regional organisation, including its various committees.

Unanimity

The activities, problems and aspirations of groups could and would be faithfully reported through these committees direct to an influential committee in London, he said.

The changes were welcomed by Mr. W. J. Crosby, chairman of the Yorkshire Regional Advisory Committee, who spoke of the unanimity which existed in discussions which had taken place of the future format of the regional structure.

Dr. J. Newcombe, consultant psychiatrist and Medical Supt. of the York Group of Subnormality Hospitals, spoke on the causation of brain damage and the possibilities of its prevention in the future.

Although brain damaged children would continue to be born, he said, the incidence was likely to be lessened in the future as a result of advances in medical skill, but research was continuing not only into the genetic aspects but also into such factors as the effect of certain foods and drugs.

After lunch, there was a talk by Mr. J. D. Johnson, Principal of Hawksworth Hall, who spoke about the assessment of young spastic children there.

In the course of questioning, Mr. Johnson disclosed that despite local authority support the annual deficit of the school which had to be met at the moment by The Spastics Society was over £10,000, and he appealed for financial support.

Speaking on the Seeborn Report, Mr. E. D. Butterworth of York University said its view was that local authority and voluntary bodies needed to be partners in the expansion of welfare services. One part of an organisation like The Spastics Society could and did play was

The bear facts . . .

Newest and most popular figure at Watford Spastics Centre is Bassett Bear, the giant plaything presented anonymously by a woman who won it playing bingo. Cuddling-up on Bassett Bear's knee is little Elaine, one of the children who, said a spokesman, are "thrilled to bits" with their new friend.

(Photo by courtesy of "Evening Echo," Watford).

to act as a form of consumer research to pinpoint weaknesses within the local authority framework.

Mr. G. Cottam pointed out that this would be the last occasion upon which the Senior Regional Officer, Group Captain W. A. L. Davis, would be appearing and thanked him for the help and guidance he had given local groups.

Back to school

Ann Smith, who was a pupil of the Thomas Delarue School for Spastics at Tonbridge, Kent, returned there for a week recently to gain experience of teaching.

Ann, who now has a degree in history, is studying a Reading for a teacher training diploma.

Looking things in the mouth

Doctors in America have been studying how sensitive the human mouth is. Their findings have helped to identify patterns in neurological disease and in feeding and speech disorders.

Dr. James Bosma, of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, outlined the study in a paper to the Oxford conference of the Spastics Society on child neurology and cerebral palsy.



Mayor at opening of Lancaster centre

Clubs hand over new minibus

Horsham's four service clubs—Rotary, Round Table, Lions and The Companions—who recently set out to raise money to buy a new minibus for Inglefield Manor School, have now handed over the vehicle to Miss E. M. Varty, the school's headmistress.

The idea to replace the school's existing minibus came from the school's League of Friends, and the Service Clubs organised the fund-raising.

Main event was the September Fete, which brought in £600. This fine result was achieved despite the fact that just after an hour of selling, customers had to rush into the manor house because the fete was swamped by a cloudburst.

Horsham Silver Band played on in the school hall and teas were served in the dining room, although stallholders could only watch their efforts being washed away.

Donations from the clubs took the £600 to the £1,000 mark, sufficient for the new minibus and leaving a little in hand. The total was helped by the sale of the old bus.

The new industrial training centre established in Lancaster by The Spastics Society was being opened on November 27 by the Mayor of Lancaster, Alderman Eric Simpson on behalf of Lord Derby, who is indisposed.

The second of its kind to be provided by the Society, the centre can accommodate 72 trainees, who will learn industrial and commercial skills and live in modern, hostel conditions where social and personal independence will be encouraged.

At the opening, visitors were being welcomed by the Chairman of The Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn, and the Mayor was to be thanked by the Director, Mr. James Loring and the General Manager of the Centre, Mr. J. Parkinson.

After a tour of inspection by the official party, the Centre was being thrown open to all visitors.

Office training

Layout of the building has been carefully planned so that, although residential and workshop sections are separate, each is within easy access of the other.

The workshop area will be largely devoted to light engineering and ancillary bench trades; and the building will also house the Society's Office Training Centre.

Engineering and office sections will each lay emphasis on employment prospects in the North of England.

The Ministry of Labour, which recognises the Centre as an Industrial Rehabilitation Unit, contributes towards the cost of a trainee's stay for up to 12 months.

Meldreth has its Friends

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of Meldreth Training School was held recently and Dr. J. Landon, a former schools' medical officer, was elected chairman.

Mr. L. Jones Valentine is secretary and the Bursar of the school, Mr. E. Dummett, is treasurer.

Purpose of the organisation will be to make grants or donations for the benefit of pupils and to give help where possible to the Principal, Mr. G. H. Crabb.

At the meeting, the work of the school and the society was outlined by Mr. D. R. H. Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services.

Although the response to the appeal for members has been good, many more are wanted to join in the work.

There were over 180 guests at a wine and cheese party at Meldreth Training Centre and it is thought that about £80 was raised.

The event was organised by Mrs. Molly Wilson, Hitchin Area Committee chairman.

A NICE PIECE OF HOMEWORK . . .

SALES from the Spastics Society's Homework Department which produces jewellery and soft toys made by spastics, are running at double last year's volume. And, said the manager, Mr. A. Dobson, there is every hope that figures for the whole year will be doubled, too.

The jewellery designs are changed twice each year, and several popular lines have been introduced, writes Anne Plummer.

These include pearl necklaces and earrings with nine carat gold fittings, earrings for pierced ears, Wedgwood rings and pendants.

Mr. Dobson reports that it is hoped that a further 20 spastics will be employed on this work by April next.

Hitch for Susie Doll

LAST MONTH "Spastics News" reported the case of the Susie Doll that went for a dance by moonlight. This month, it was the doll who got caught in the High Street traffic and ended up in "hospital."

The doll, which normally stands outside the "Little Me" shop in Staines High Street, seemed a convenient hitching post for a girl's alsatian dog while its mistress visited the shop.

But while she was inside, something frightened the animal and off it bolted into the thick of the traffic—dragging Susie Doll behind it. And the more the doll rattled its pennies around, the more frightened the dog became.

Susie needed treatment for head injuries.

Disabled appeal to designer, architect

ARCHITECTS and designers of the past were blamed for making life difficult for the disabled when Mr. O. A. Denly addressed The Leicestershire Association for the Disabled.

Appealing for architects not to forget the needs of the disabled when designing public buildings, Mr. Denly referred to the handicapped as "two-dimensional people who live in a three-dimensional world."

Himself disabled for 23 years following polio, he spoke of high steps, high kerbs, badly sited lamp-posts, and of the difficulties of getting into places of entertainment.

But Mr. Denly also commended authorities who had given thought to the problem; the costs, he said, were negligible if the adaptations were made at the time of construction.

It's fun — and functional

It's great fun on the helter-skelter fire escape at the Spastics Society's Lancaster training centre. But the escape, built of plastics and designed by C. B. Pearson, Son and Partners, and contained in a tower, could save lives—a clear example of what architects can do to adapt familiar techniques to the special needs of the handicapped.

(Photo by courtesy of "Daily Telegraph," Manchester).



Hydrotherapy Pools ?

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LONDON W.1.**

... and only a few days later . . .

Within a few days of the opening of the Cwmbran Spastics Work Centre a cheque for £250 was handed to the Monmouthshire Spastics Society by the local Round Table.

The money, to be used for the running expenses of the centre, was raised by the Table through functions over the past two years.

With the opening of the centre, five young spastics found themselves engaged on the initial project—the assembly of ball-point pens, but the manager, Mr. D. Northcott said that this was only a start. He hoped that a further 15 would be at work by Christmas.

The sum of £78 was raised by a sale of work by Goytre residents. The money will be given to the Cwmbran Centre.

Thirty societies join forces

THE WEST KENT Spastics Society and the Friends of the Phoenix Centre for Spastic Children are among more than 30 societies who have joined forces to pool their resources and knowledge to help the handicapped in Bromley.

All have become founder members of the Bromley Association for the Handicapped.

At an inaugural meeting, Mrs. L. Marks of the Bromley Society for Mentally Handicapped Children said that a questionnaire asking the member associations to list the greatest needs of their members showed how much work lay ahead for the association.

The guest speaker, Mr. Robin Smith, director of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled, said there was need for concern rather than complacency about the lack of facilities for the disabled.

Two gaoled for receiving

Two men gaoled for six months each at Belfast were said to have received £75 worth of goods stolen from the Belfast shop of a spastic, Mr. Brian Moore.

20 free holidays

Twenty prizes of a week's holiday for up to four people will be offered in a simple, free-to-enter competition in next month's Spastics News. Don't miss it—order a copy now.

NO CHANGE

Despite the "mini-budget" increases, the price of Spastics Christmas cards is to remain unchanged.

LANTHORNE GETS LOCAL £1,500

At the annual general meeting of the Canterbury and Kent Coast group, it was announced that £1,500 had been raised locally for Lanthorne Hospital School.

Street collections had brought in almost £80, collecting boxes over £276, and coffee mornings £18.

Individual spastics had also been helped by the group. Two residents from Cripplegate had been given pocket money for their holidays, a walking frame had been purchased, and copies of "The Early Years" had been presented to parents of spastic children.

FOR SALE

**EVEREST and JENNINGS
FOLDING PUSH-CHAIR**
(adult). Pale green plastic seat, etc. Pneumatic tyres. Wheel diameter, 9 inches. As new. £20 or nearest offer.

Apply to:

**SPASTICS SOCIETY
29b LINKFIELD LANE
REDHILL, SURREY**

Drivers will get ferry concessions

TOWNSEND CAR FERRIES Limited are to carry cars converted for use by disabled drivers free of charge on their ferry services between Dover and Calais and Dover and Zeebrugge.

21st birthday piped in

A social evening was held by the Ilford, Romford and District Spastic Association to mark the 21st birthday of Penelope Scott, a spastic member of the group. The hall was decorated with flowers given by the local Dahlia Society and the 60 guests were entertained by a Scottish piper.

Officers of the association are now: Chairman, Mr. C. P. C. Crawshaw (Tel. 01-554 3901); Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. H. Rowland; Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. W. Bews, 146 Lansdowne Road, Seven Kings (Tel. 01-590 8868); Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. H. Nichols; Transport, Mr. C. Wren.

To qualify for the facility, travellers must be members of either the Disabled Driver's Association or the Disabled Driver's Motor Club.

Those who are interested should write to the secretary of the club of which they are a member, giving details of their car and its conversion and the date and time of the sailings which are required.

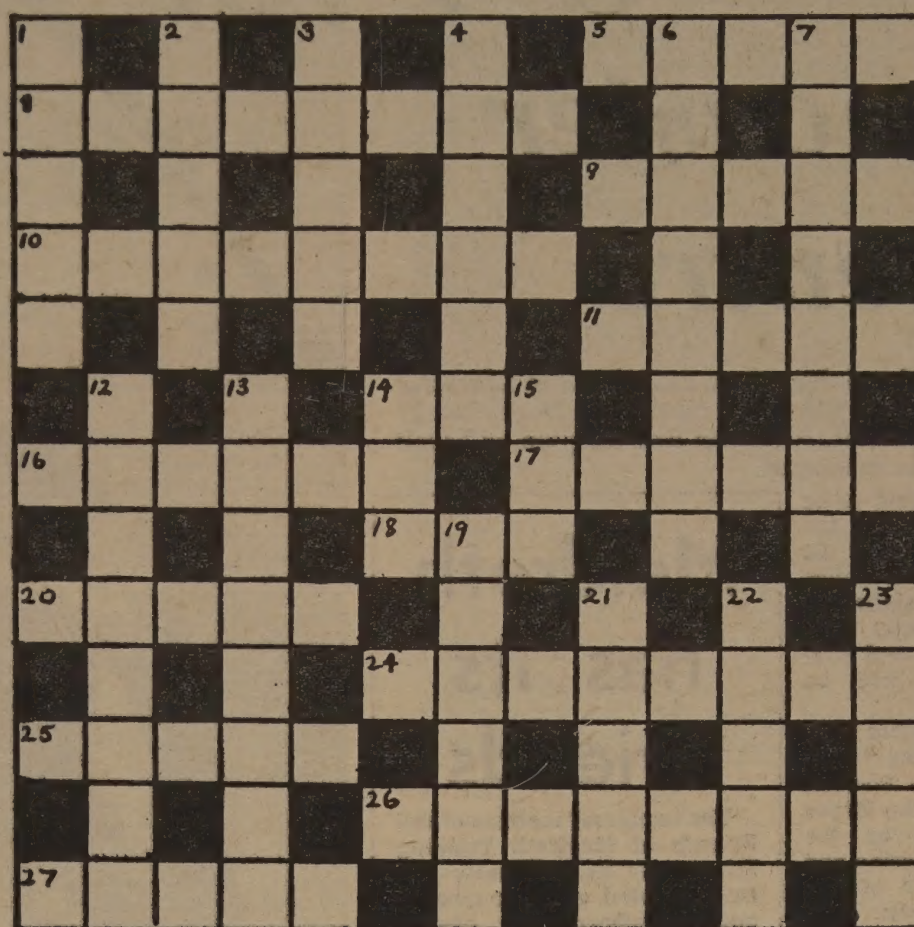
The application will then be passed on to the headquarters of Townsend Car Ferries where the bookings will be made and the tickets issued.

For administrative reasons, this facility cannot be extended to other organisations.

Melton soon?

An attempt is being made to start up a Spastics Society committee at Melton Mowbray.

PLEASE-YOURSELF CROSSWORD No. 3



In this monthly competition, you choose whether to go for the harder "cryptic" square for a guinea, or the easy puzzle for 10s. 6d. Prizes in each case go to the senders of the first correct solutions opened. And there is a bonus — if you are a spastic, a further 10s. 6d. will be added to your prize, regardless of which clues you have answered.

Send coupon to: Editor, "Spastics News," 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, to arrive not later than first post on the 12th of this month. Solutions and prizewinners next month.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

SPASTIC? YES/NO

Last month's winners

The "cryptic" contest winner was P. H. Reynolds, of Harrogate, a spastic, who wins £1-11-6d. Miss J. Geater, of Bristol won the "easy" square and her prize is 10s. 6d.

... and answers

CRYPTIC: Across: 1. Potter; 2. Oyster; 7. Displayed; 9. Neap; 10. Deal; 11. Argot; 13. Decant; 14. Romany; 15. Others; 17. School; 19. Youth; 20. Lift; 22. Auk; 23. Laughable; 24. Socket; 25. Tastes. Down: 1. Planned; 2. Trip; 3. Report; 4. Orator; 5. Sped; 8. Replay; 7. Dance hall; 8. Demagogue; 11. Angry; 12. Touch; 15. Oxlips; 16. Sought; 17. Strait; 18. Losses; 21. Talk; 22. Ales.

EASY: Across: 1. Collar; 4. Rumpus; 7. Orangeade; 9. Mink; 19. Exit; 11. Defer; 13. Sooner; 14. Dearth; 15. Beside; 17. Frocks; 19. Sloes; 20. Rout; 22. Real; 23. Prepared; 24. Triple; 25. Dodged. Down: 1. Crimes; 2. Lark; 3. Ranger; 4. Reeled; 5. Made; 6. Sketch; 7. Onion soup; 8. Extracted; 11. Deeds; 12. Rears; 15. Barnet; 16. Elapse; 17. Fenced; 18. Salted; 21. Trip; 22. Rend.

This month's clues

CRYPTIC

Across: 5. Thomas had. 8. The French in preparation for battle, and inspiring fear. 9. Bit of London in a pie for some. 10. Red gases (anag.). 11. Learner in slip-up? 14. It's all calm in the hurricane's. Sailor lives in revolting surroundings. 17. Like 14 across the morning after. 18. Low throw. 20. The way the meal's cooked, it gives you the vapours. 24. Taut diet will alter this posture. 25. Takes a lot of beating, you could say. 26. Snake I classify as a sound. 17. A bit of bother. Down: Sailors who measure horses? only? 4. Gun put up in crafty hiding place, but cosily. 6. Do six die 2. Artist is short to a brief arch-deacon. 3. Tickle—for Air Ministry (anag.)? 7. Shields that bend. 12. Clear extract from Verdi's tincture.

13. That sailor again, starting off rough. 14. Go back away from the wind for fish. 15. The water's falling here. 19. To put it bluntly, it's just an angle. 21. Four-or-six in the cap, and angry. 22. Praise up about a hundred of the highest peers. 23. Tool with sloping edge?

EASY

Across: 5. Pile. 8. Delight. 9. Barriers. 10. Like a book. 11. Despatch. 14. Utilise. 16. Bestow. 17. Selfish pride. 18. Born. 20. Pig-pens. 24. Likeness. 25. Nativity. 26. Concurring. 27. Distorts. Down: 1. Separated. 2. Award. 3. Easterner. 4. Toasts. 6. Capturing. 7. Gathers up. 12. Sorry. 13. Concerned. 14. Vase. 15. Adam's rib. 19. Sufficient. 21. Soak. 22. Stampede. 23. Platform.

The Superb NEWTON Wheelchair

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Birmingham 33
Telephone 921-783 6083

Safari rides the export market

The Newton Safari wheelchair—made at the Spastics Society's Meadway Works, Birmingham—is steadily making a mark on the export market.

The general manager, Mr. R. G. Miller, reports: "We have exported a further two Safari polished wheelchairs to Switzerland and a further one to Sweden, making our totals to date, Sweden 2, Switzerland 4."

He added that the last chair to Sweden was going to the central purchasing agency for all the hospitals and schools—"and we might get a nice surprise if they like it."

N. IRELAND APPEAL

The Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development has published a new illustrated leaflet, appealing for funds.

The Council is hoping to open a further work centre soon, and has launched a special appeal for £30,000 to cover building and equipment costs.

New way to fill those boxes

A NEW WAY of raising money for spastics is a rare event—but one such method is reported by Mr. N. W. Roberts-Wray, the Surrey organiser—and it could catch on.

Said Mr. Wray: "I had a request to visit Mr. Haywood of the Staff Hotel, London Road, Camberley recently, because a report had been received that a collection box was full and required emptying."

"He told me that many people visiting the local shops got into the habit of using his car park, preventing his own patrons from taking advantage of the facilities provided, and he hit on the scheme of making a charge to all motorists who trespassed."

"Most of them paid up handsomely, and those who refused were told to remove their cars. In no time the box became full, as all the charges made went into the collection box, and as a consequence Mr. Haywood required a second box as a spare or for use in the bar."

"I realised that this was indeed a case of initiative on the part of the landlord, and I told him so."

Ingenuity cracks another problem

AN INGENUOUS push-chair-cum-car seat has been brought to the attention of Mr. N. B. D. Elwes, the Society's Appliance Officer.

Mrs. Elwes told Spastics News: "Mrs. Modlin and her daughter, who live near Bournemouth, have managed to design it with the help of friends.

"It not only allows Miss Modlin to use the car but, by taking the wheels and the drawbridge platform into the boot, it allows them mobility when they arrive at their destination."

The white wooden platform (see pictures) remains at home, where there is no eight-inch kerb, which is necessary for the level operation of loading and unloading.

"Mrs. Modlin says that she is usually able to find a suitable kerb wherever she wants to unload her daughter," said Mr. Elwes.

PICTURE ONE shows the wheels on the kerb with the drawbridge platform firmly fixed to the wheels and the edge of the car preparatory to unloading.

PICTURE TWO shows the seat unfastened, turned on its four small rollers and engaged in the double tracks and pushed on to the platform.

PICTURE THREE shows the chair being pushed home on to the wheels and fastened.

The drawbridge is then disconnected and the chair is ready for normal use.

Said Mr. Elwes: "This arrangement not only saves lifting Miss Modlin but gives her a normal view from the car windows. It also requires a minimum of adaptation to the car, except for the temporary removal of the passenger seat."

★ From Page 1

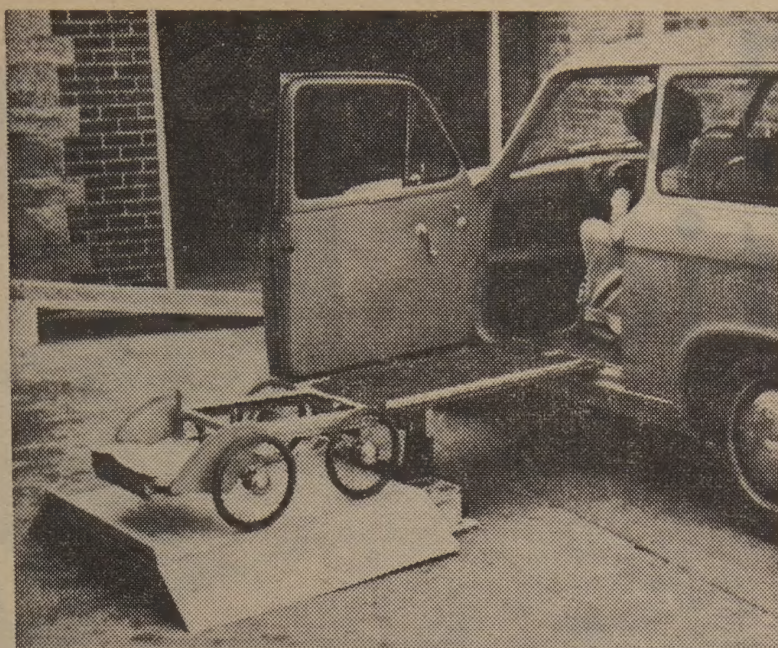
for each membership card held.

The Weekly Bulletins are to be revitalised and from the New Year will be in colour. Members will be offered high quality goods at greatly reduced prices; there will be competitions with prizes including colour television sets and holidays. Some of the competitions will be sponsored by well-known commercial organisations.

The free accidental death insurance in which all members are automatically covered, is also being retained.

To pay for the additional benefits and for the increased donation to charity, it will be necessary to raise the payments from a shilling to 1s. 6d.

Said Regional Pool Promotions Managing Director, Mr.



Douglas Arter: "We have conducted some extensive research and as a result we think that the new deal is exactly what members want.

"The Spastics' is still the easiest of all competitions. There is no postal order to buy and no posting to be done. It isn't even necessary for members to check their numbers, for they receive their prizes automatically. And, remember, this is the first increase since the competition started and it is still less than the cost of a

packet of 10 cigarettes or a pint of beer.

"We have attempted to organise the competition so that no one loses; everyone has something to gain."

The Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, said: "We are confident that our good friends, the members, will not only willingly accept the increase in cost to ensure that this and other charities do not suffer loss of income, but will also redouble their efforts."

Down with nappy prices!

FOR SOME MONTHS now the Society Equipment Department has been worrying away at the problem of finding a lower priced outsized nappy. The price of ordinary size 24 ins. by 24 ins. napkins can be a bit of a headache but 36 ins. by 36 ins. size cost double, or nearly three times the price.

The Equipment Department has found a number of firms who produce large nappies, 27 in. by 27 in., 30 in. by 30 in., 36 in. by 36 in.—one firm even produces one which is 39 in. by 39 in.

They even know a way of getting the prices down; to buy in bulk. But they have been unable to establish any idea of possible requirements.

Approximate prices at present are as follows:—for terry towelling 24 in. by 24 in. from 21/- to 32/10d. a dozen, 27 in. by 27 in. 33/6d a dozen, 30 in. by 30 in. 62/- a dozen (30 in. by 30 in. gauze napkins are available at 25/4d. a dozen) 36 in. by 36 in. at 64/- a dozen and 39 in. by 39 in. 66/- a dozen.

The Equipment Department will be glad to forward addresses but would be even more overjoyed to be able to place a large bulk order, get a low price in consequence and help

everybody to save a little money.

Finding large size plastic pants to go over nappies is by no means as difficult. There is a wide variety from the simple "pull on" type to drop fronted pants with Velcro fastenings which make changing much less athletic. (30 in. to 59 in. hip sizes priced from 7/6d to 12/6d.). They have a pocket for pads and are boilable.

For sensitive skins there is polypropylene knitted fabric. This is rather special in that moisture passes out through the fabric but remains dry against the skin.

Two sizes of nappy liners are available for babies (priced from two for 5/11d.). two sizes of pants (from two for 8/11d.) and two sizes of draw sheets, 33 in. by 17 in. (12/6d.) and 33 in. by 33 in. (22/6d.).

Paper undies are now on the market at an extremely reasonable price. A pack of women's

TO CAP IT ALL

A helpful firm in Birmingham will fit poly-toe-caps to shoes which receive an unusual amount of wear.

They asked that the areas of severe wear are marked out on the shoes. These are covered with poly and then colour matched with the rest of the shoe.

Obviously it is best to send new shoes, before the rot sets in. Price 13/- a shoe, plus postage. Details from the Equipment Department of the Society.

bikini briefs are 3/11 for six. Pink or blue — reinforced crutch. Will fit a small girl of seven to a 36 hip. (There are children's sizes, too, but I haven't tracked them down yet). Also pink or blue shorty nighties at 2/11. The paper feels soft and fluffy.

Men's briefs are dozen size packs for 9/11. No reinforcement—an open-work texture.

Available from chain stores. Baby bibs and industrial overalls will also be available.

S.K.

Employment moves and news

LINDA BANISTER from Stoke-on-Trent who trained at Sherrards is doing general work in the Plastics Section of the North Staffordshire Poster Co.

PAUL COLEMAN from Crawley who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work locally as an inspection viewer for M.S.E. Ltd.

JOHN DAWSON from Hemel Hempstead who trained at Sherrards, is now employed as a trainee capstan operator for the Charon Engineering Co. Ltd.

ROY DREDGE from Newcastle-upon-Tyne who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, has commenced work locally as a trainee with the White Hart Optical Co. Ltd.

TERENCE DUFFIELD from Welling who trained at Sherrards, has been working for some time as a messenger at Woolwich Barracks.

RUTH EDGAR from Huyton is now working at Meccano Ltd. in Liverpool.

DAPHNE FIELDS from Holt has a new job and is working as a domestic help at Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill.

SANDRA GALLEY from Gloucester, who trained at Sherrards, and later moved to the Birmingham Sheltered Workshop, is now employed as a drilling operator by Enfield Rolling Mills in Tottenham.

JEFFREY HAIMOV from Romford who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as a trainee engraver for the firm of Falconcraft.

DAVID HARRISON from Liverpool who trained at Queen Elizabeth's Training College, Leatherhead, is working as a switchboard operator for Hugh Douglas Ltd.

DICKIE'S DAY

Comedian and entertainer Dickie Henderson, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, makes a purchase at a shop selling Spastics Christmas cards for the Bolton and District Society (below). Later he also opened a five-charities bazaar at Urmston. With Mr. Henderson is his charming wife.

(Photo by courtesy of "Bolton Evening News").

DAVID HARTLEY from Barnsley who trained at Portland Training College, has been working for some time in the share office of the Barnsley Co-operative Society.

JANE HELE from Rugby who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, is working as an accounts clerk at the head office of the Rugby and Warwick Building Society.

MICHAEL IBBOTSON from Rochdale has a new job and is now employed as a painter/handyman at Lily Mills, in Shaw.

JOHN IRVING from Liverpool has changed his job and is now doing bench work for Messrs. Joseph Lucas Ltd.

PAULINE JACKSON from Pensby, Wirral, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, is working as a clerk for the Berwick Toy Co. Ltd. in Wallasey.

CATHERINE KELLY from St. Helens who trained at Lancaster, is employed locally as an assembly worker for Messrs. Sperry & Co. Ltd.

MICHAEL LIVESEY from Earby who trained at Lancaster, is working as a clerk for Silent Night Mattresses at Barnoldswick.

JOHN MOFFET from Blackburn is working as a gardener for the local Corporation Parks Department.

JOHN NAISH from Coombe Down who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, is now doing general clerical work at Colmers, in Bath.

FRANCES NEVILLE from London who trained at Queen Elizabeth's Training College, Leatherhead, has a new job and is now working as a clerk for Curry & Paxton (Dispensing Opticians) in Great Portland Street, W.1.

DAVID PAGE from Hatfield has changed his job and is now working for Hawker Siddeley.

COLIN PUREFOY from Cobham is now working in a factory at Tunbridge Wells and is living locally.

EDWARD SACKETT from Walton-on-Thames who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as a trainee capstan operator by the A.D. Engineering Co. Ltd.

Bunny girls at Autumn fair

ATRACTIVE at an Autumn fair run by Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society ranged from Bunny Girls to a judo display. The event raised about £850 towards the group's new comprehensive day centre in Exeter.

Mr. W. Steiner, Secretary of the Chester '62 Club has made a Press appeal for voluntary drivers who will take club members to their meetings in Blacon on alternate Thursday evenings.

Record player to be used in the Southampton Spastics Association's children's centre has been presented by the Southampton Electrical Association for Women.

Autumn Fair run by North Staffordshire Association brought in about £175 for renovations to the spastic centre at Hanley.

Youth club members collected £51 18s. 3d. in a house-to-house collection for Oldham Spastics Society.

Ten-year-old Elaine Alcock from Sunderland with three friends, aged 11, organised her second jumble sale this year and made £6 12s. for spastics; £4 was collected at a concert and sale of work, also in Sunderland, held by five other girls aged between seven and eleven.

South Croydon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild raised £10 for spastics from a display of toys and other articles made by members of the arts and crafts section.

Skittles week, held in the First and Last skittle alley, Nether Stowey, Somerset, raised £25 2s. for the Bridgewater Friends of Spastics.



Records tumble at pigeon auction



With the puppy on his shoulder and six-year-old Jane at his side, Harry starts his sales-talk.

RECORDS WERE shattered at this year's pigeon auction on behalf of The Spastics Society and the Stars Organisation for Spastics. The highest price ever paid for a young bird—£725—was achieved, as was the world record pigeon auction total of £4,300.

This was at the fourth International Sale of Pigeons at the St. Pancras Assembly Rooms, London.

Mr. J. Wilcock of Reigate bought one of a pair offered by Mr. Louis Massarella of Leicester, his price eclipsing the previous record by £400.

Later, Mr. Massarella was inundated with offers, some in four figures, for the second of the pair but he refused them all.

The bird was one of 200 donated from all over the world, and hundreds of British and Continental fanciers packed the auction room.

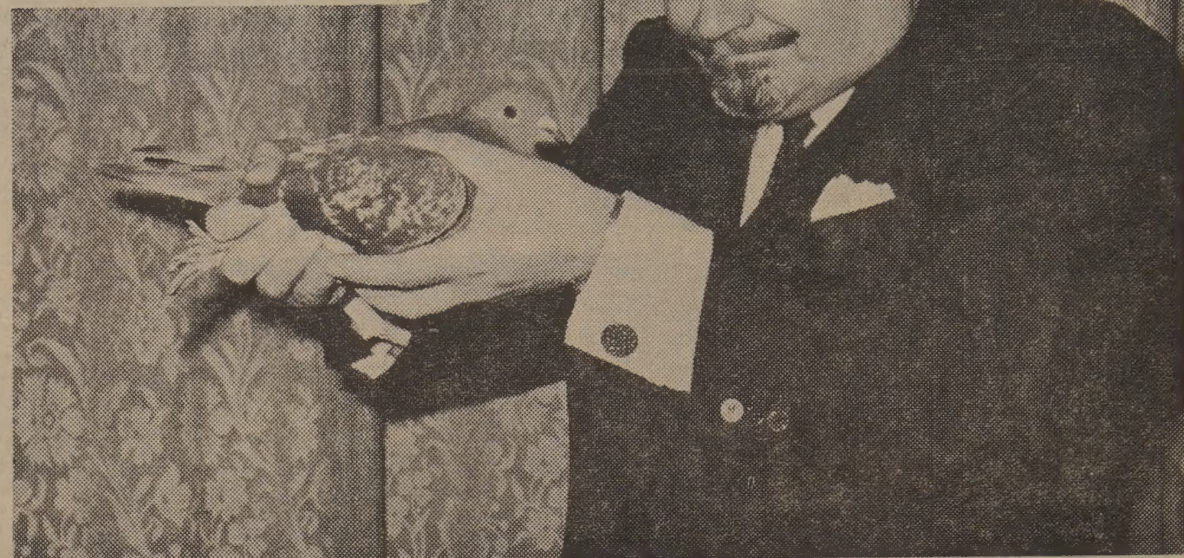
DRAMATIC ESCAPE

There was a dramatic moment when three pigeons—the most valuable of a consignment of 42 that had arrived from Germany—escaped to the ceiling and perched on a frieze.

But they were auctioned none-the-less, and the problem of retrieving them was left until later.

The sale was organised by pet shop owner Mr. Wally Pope of Barking Road, London and opened by comedian Harry Secombe, a vice-president of S.O.S. who also auctioned a Yorkshire terrier puppy presented to him by six-year-old Jane Vidgeon of South Hanningfield.

The puppy, named Chadfield Secombe, made £17 10s.



Harry gets a close look at a valuable piece of pigeon property. One bird, only 14 weeks old, fetched £750.

Mr. Rugby Football joins 'scrum'

MR. RUGBY FOOTBALL—Eddie Waring—has figured in efforts to achieve a target of one hundred beacon push-overs this year in the North Region of the Spastics Society—and it looks like being achieved.

Mr. L. C. Henderson, the Regional Officer, told "Spastics News": "We had 15 pushovers during October, making 86 to date, and with five on the stocks for November, it looks as if our target is becoming more and more of a possibility."

Among those who lent their strength to the pushovers

were Jack Howarth, the television actor; Don Revie, manager of Leeds United; Michael Bentine and Brian London.

And at Ampleforth, Mr. Rugby Football himself, Eddie Waring, was the star at a very special pushover—for the first time, Mr. Henderson believes, it was televised.

The scene was part of a documentary being made on Rugby League and Mr. Waring's part in its development.

The pub, The White Swan, was packed for the occasion—and the pennies were sold to a coin collector, making a £5 profit on the deal. The film about Eddie Waring will be screened around the end of January.

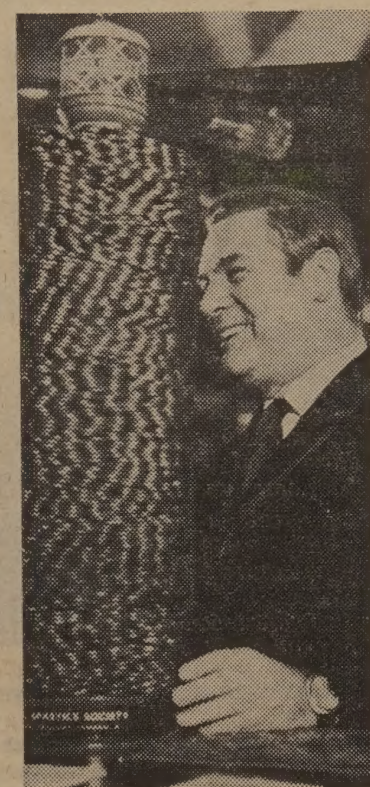
At the Bullcroft, Skellow, Don Revie has left an autographed football for raffling, by Billy Bremner, Leeds captain, on December 12.

Abertillery sportsman Laurie Watts knocked over 7,326 pennies at the Commercial Hotel in aid of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society.

Conqueror . . .

SIR EDMUND Hilary, conqueror of Everest, spoke to Duke of Edinburgh Award winners at the Council House, Birmingham.

And among the 47 who received gold or silver awards was 19-year-old spastic Janet Bentley.



Eddie Waring gets ready for the big heave.

FAIR SUM RAISED

AFTER payment of all expenses, the Michaelmas Fair held by the Welwyn Garden and District Group of the Spastics Society raised £760.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Henry E. Holt, told "Spastics News": "This is being distributed as follows: Sherrards, £250; Watford Treatment Centre, £150; Wakes Hall, £100; Colwell Court, £25; Ingfield Manor, £50."

The rest goes to other charities.

A FIRST FOR KYRE PARK . . .

THE FIRST-EVER garden fete and gymkhana to be held at Kyre Park Spastics Centre, Tenbury Wells was very well attended. The event was expected to have made about £200 less the usual expenses.

Held in the morning, there were 167 entries in the 12 gymkhana classes and judging was carried out by Lady Boyne. The afternoon's entertainment got under way with a fete and into the evening with both a film show and an open-air beat dance.

The fete was very well received. Bowling for a pig (donated by Mr. T. Yarnold) was won by D. Gwilt of Stoke Bliss and winners of the main competition prizes were: Mr. I. Meaney, Daresbury Hall, Warrington (£10); D. Goodman, Port (£5); Mrs. Brown, Walton, Peterborough (£2 10s.). All the prizes for the Fete were donated.

As evening approached coloured lights were switched on in the trees and people either crammed into the Old Tithe Barn to watch the film "A

Town Like Alice" or danced to the Ludlow Beat Group "The Eruptions" who played practically non-stop for 2½ hours and when offered their fee said that they would like it to go back into the funds as they had "really enjoyed themselves."

Mr. C. C. Forester-Morgan, the Warden commented that it had been a very successful day, and it was hoped that it would become an annual event.

The Fete and Gymkhana was organised entirely by staff and their friends.

SPASTICS TAKE UP WEIGHT LIFTING

Spastic children and teenagers in the Worthing area have taken up yet another sporting occupation—weight-lifting.

Courses have been arranged for them at Ferring Rifers Youth Club following a meeting between one of the spastics and youth leader Sid Liversidge.

Other club members help them by passing weights to them. Said Mr. Liversidge: "They are delighted that they can come here and do a spot of training. They have fitted in very nicely and other members of the club chip in and help them overcome any obstacles."

Duchess of Norfolk in praise of Society

Work done by the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society was praised by the Duchess of Norfolk when she opened their annual fair, which raised over £1,500 gross.

The Duchess, who is President of the Society, said that since its formation in 1955 it had gone from strength to strength.

"But the more work the Society does, the more money it needs," she said.

She referred especially to the riding activities at Hamilton House Day Centre, two of whose children were on the platform and showed riding awards they had won.

36 teams already in National Games

THIRTY-SIX TEAM entries, comprising some 135 spastics of all ages, have been received for the 1969 National Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville, Mr. John Le Provost, the Society's Education Officer, told "Spastics News".

They have come from 14 schools, three '62 Clubs, five sports associations and 14 residential centres.

"It is clear that early entry is necessary to avoid disappointment," said Mr. Le Provost.

Displays of riding, table tennis, invalid car driving, wheelchair football and basketball are being arranged and, said Mr. Le Provost, these and other events may be included in the list of contests in future years.

Enquiries should be sent to Mr. A. T. S. Edwards, 8 Starve-crow Close, Tonbridge, Kent.

£124 made by Londoners

Despite torrential rain, the North West London group raised over £100 at the two-day Brent Show. A further £24 was made from the sale of Christmas cards.

This was the fifth year that the group's Appeals Committee have sponsored a booth at the show.

Among the items sold were imaginatively-sewn handicrafts and stuffed toys made by the ladies' working party led by Mrs. Simkin.

CENTRE PLANS

Dr. Margaret Griffiths, Chairman of the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society, spoke of plans for a work centre at the Group's annual general meeting.

She said that the group's executive committee was negotiating for a suitable building and were awaiting the result of their application for planning permission.

Gift of radio

HOVE LIONS Club have presented a V.H.F. transistor radio to Hamilton House, the centre of the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society.

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